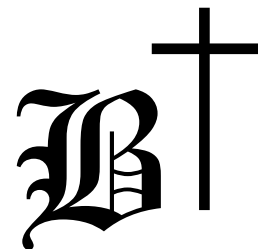


*Bethany Lutheran Church
2900 Parkview Drive
Longview, WA 98632*

September 2025

God's Blessings to . . .



**September 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



By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. Galatians 5: 22-23.

Dear Bethany, What a wonderful summer we have had. We had a beautiful VBS in a garden space. It was beautiful and calm. The garden at Barnes was so lush we could barely see the building or the wheels on the cars. It was a lovely escape for a few hours from the hustle and bustle of the busy day.

I asked the question, as I do at every VBS: Where did you see God today? One of the answers was, “In the wind and breeze, in the sun and clouds, in the people created in God’s image.” That is a pretty full answer and it represented our entire week. It is always a good question to ask yourself daily. It is especially good to ask yourself that on the days where it is hard to figure out how God showed up, because it makes you look and reexamine the day through new eyes, even if those eyes are tired, or burned out, or grieving.

It is September and fall is upon us. Soon the leaves will change, and the colors of fall will surround us. I am always torn between embracing fall and trying to hold on to the summer days.

I find being thankful to God for the slowdown that summer has created in my life, the blue skies, my garden full of tomatoes, just being outside more, it feels like a Sabbath in its own way. Fall will bring a new sense of busyness and fun as people return and an energy returns with them. Look for all the ways God shows up in this next season, I believe if you make a habit of looking for God, you will find more times of seeing God in your life. Where did you see God today?

Many blessings, *Pastor Susan*

New Business:

- **Security Policy**-required by Vanco-second reading and approval; **It was moved and seconded to submit the policy to Vanco. Motion carried.**
- **Payroll Tax**-July 15 received a penalty notice from the IRS for failure to make proper tax deposit in the amount of \$429.36. (Bethany has always paid the payroll tax quarterly.) A Bethany employee increased the amount withheld for their federal income tax, this put us over the limit for quarterly deposits. We must now make electronic monthly payments on payday, and file the form quarterly. This penalty was for the 1st quarter of 2025, we will receive another for the 2nd quarter. Bethany is now in the process of setting up the electronic transfer of payroll taxes. Thank you to Ginger and Susan S for doing this!
- **Partial Parking Lot Wall**- Have ribboned off area, alerted the neighbor who purchased access. Will put in an announcement to remind members not to park near the ribboned area. In the process of contacting him as he agreed to help when we repair, and contacting other sources for quotes on repair;
- **Quarterly Meeting August 14th 5:00 (following Council) Agenda**- Sound System FH, Parking Lot Wall, Lower Col. Lutheran Conference meeting, security report, calendar;

Staff Report –

- Pastor will be out of office on Sept. 2 for the PLU Convocation.
- **Facility Use Approval**- Ladies of the Lake Quilting Sew Fun Days Friday, Oct. 24-25; DKG Women Educators-Feb. 19, May 21; **It was moved and seconded to approve these outside facility use events;**
- **Vacation Request**- Ginger’s vacation for August 26-28 is cancelled. Request November 25 and 26th (Thanksgiving is November 27 closed) **It was moved and seconded to approve these requests. Motion carried.**
- Dor is taking her last three weekends in September for vacation – Sept 14 -28. Patrick will play on Sept 14 and 28, and Mary (Dor’s sister) will play on the 21st.

Adjournment-Barb Clausen adjourned the meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

Next Scheduled Meetings: Executive Committee Wednesday, Sept. 3 12:15 ; Council – Thursday, Sept 11th, 3:15 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

have Mona and Perry Fiscus joining soon and a baptism of their grandchild, Lilly on September 14!!!

- ◇ **Other:** The new presiding bishop of the ELCA was elected.
- ◇ **Goal/Action Plan Progress Report:** 2025-2026: To strengthen our spiritual growth so that God's promises come alive & Christ's love is shared with others. Summer Events- 7/16-4 guest, 12 total; 7/23- 1 guest, 10 total;

Unfinished Business:

- **Church Mutual/Brotherhood Insurance:** We budgeted \$6,000. Church Mutual annual payment would be \$ 6,200. There is a separate for wind and hail now with a \$25,000 deductible. The amount covered would be \$2,224,400. The portable no longer has liability only coverage.) Brotherhood annual payment would be \$5.902 for \$2,000,000 and this includes the portable and includes wind and hail. With the broadened coverage, it would put the total limit to \$2,500,000. Ginger recommends we go with Brotherhood. **It was moved and seconded to approve Brotherhood as our insurance carrier for 2025 beginning this month. Motion carried.**
- **Lower Columbia Lutheran Conferences**-Cancelled August Meeting. Received check from dissolution of checking account for \$93.55. Recommend Youth/Service Committee fund. **Consensus to move to the Y/S fund.**
- **Endowment Committee**-Pastor and Phyllis have signed and Susan is submitting the \$25,000 to set it up as per the congregation's decision. (Note: ELCA has approved & in process of submitting our \$25,000 starter as per then congregational vote.)
- **Sound System Report**-working on a list of minor adjustments, but everyone loves it! Cost to complete the Fellowship Hall is \$23,350.42- (This quote is from March and may need readjusted) The cost of the previously purchased speakers has been subtracted.
- **Special Congregational Meeting Minutes**-Postponed the draft of the minutes from June 1 meeting;
- **Clipboard Volunteer Sign Ups**-Council members signed up to encourage members for the weekly service opportunities;
- **Fire/Safety Security Plan**-Pastor Susan will be conducting a fire drill one Sunday and a lock down on a different occasion;
- **Annual Reviews**-Read reviews and goals. Goals for next year for Ginger -Continue to learn Power Church software and work on re-developing the website (with help); Dorothy-Continue to build the music team and create additional opportunities for youth; Thank you to both of these team members for sharing the gifts and enhancing our church life! You are appreciated. It was moved and seconded to approve the goals as reviewed. 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

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	Xander Gireth	



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

10	Gabriel Pelster	20	Marlene Rahn
11	Harry Blair	23	Glen Milhiser
15	Mona Fiscus	26	Rick Siragusa
16	Robin Siragusa	27	Randy Grambo

ANNIVERSARIES

20 Jeff and Mary Storm

Emergency Fund: Family Community Resource Centers

September brings us to the start of a school year and the cupboards are bare at the two P-12 Grade Family Community Resource Centers in the Kelso and Longview School Districts. Many students are eager to get help so they can be comfortable, confident, and successful learners. Over half of the students in the two school districts are on either free or reduced lunch due to their parents' low income at or below the poverty line. Donations to the two centers will help them fill in the gaps that are needed—particularly with unhoused youths who are trying to stay in school. This money will help with grab and go for those who leave school and go to work, laundry soap, toiletries, and many other items. Please mark your check the emergency fund in the memo.

Ministry of the Month: Worship & Music

Please stop and thank a member of this committee or write them a note! They review plans for services once a month, find out what music will be used, and make other plans to make each service special. They work closely with Pastor Susan to keep each service a fresh and inspiring worship. A special thank you to Renee Pelster, Russ Gilchrist, and Chris Cotten who have provided us with sermons recently. This has given us a chance to hear other voices as well as giving pastor a needed break! You are all appreciated!

Oh, I Think I Will Just Zoom Today!

Many a Sunday at least one or two of us think about watching on zoom or Facebook because we don't feel like driving to church. (However, we appreciate and still want to encourage homebound members to keep tuning in so they can be part of us!) Recently, with the changes in my life, this has been especially true as I have less energy these days. I would just like to encourage you to force yourself out of the chair and into your car—worship is strengthened when we are together. Our bond makes us all stronger. So if you are able, please join us in person so we can worship together.

Finally, I was deeply moved by the number of members who came to Gay Selby's service, sent cards, and made calls to me. No words can adequately express the comfort your hugs and loving comments brought to me. I deeply appreciate each of you! God's blessings, Barb Clausen

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

- ◇ Reformation Sunday at Trinity on Oct. 26th - Come and meet the new Bishop Keith Marshall who will be preaching;
- ◇ Outdoor service went very well. Thank you to everyone who helped and brought food. A special thank you to Dave Skora and Barb Wilson for Barbecuing.
- ◇ Pastor Tom Tweed preached and presided on July 13, for pastor to attend a personal funeral.
- ◇ VBS Sunday will be Aug. 17
- **Youth/Service:** Barb Clausen met June 18th, 10:30;
- ◇ Grant money: Kelso Family Community Resource Center-\$300; Refuge \$300; EAT \$300; Peace Health grant \$1,000;
- ◇ FISH- July 3:17 Seniors, 37 adults, 48 children, 2 babies: 104 served; Next set up Sept.1 & give Sept. 2;
- ◇ Small Seeds/Sprouts Summer camp August 12—15 9:30-12:00 at Barnes School Gardens with a evening community food give away component. We had 13 youth and several parents. The students drew pictures and then painted them on the shed. Camp Sunday will be on Aug. 17
- **Duct Tape Crew:** Pastor Susan Dollinger, George Obermeyer;
- ◇ Life Works-Jeremy Harris on Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 working well with the adult;
- ◇ Parking Lines-Thank you to Dan Lane, George Obermeyer, and Russ Gilchrist!!;
- ◇ The Retaining wall is failing. There is a big lean by the maple tree. It has been roped off. We are getting quotes.
- ◇ The boy scouts replaced some boards on the boat outside. The bar in the playground is dry rotted through. Marked with tape and will ask the boy scouts if they can repair if we buy the board.
- **Stewardship:** Working on a committee for fall; Sent out a request to last year's team. Have only heard back from one at this point in time. (Note: Since that time the committee has been filled! Thank you!)
- **Mutual Ministry:** Next meeting tentative Aug. 26 10:30; **It was moved and seconded to sadly accept the resignation from Beth Milhiser and to appoint Phyllis Cavens in that position. Motion carried.**
- **Women's Bible Study-**Meeting Tuesday, 10:30 re-starting Sept. 9; There was a short survey sent out about rethinking WOB (perhaps re-branding). We received seven responses.
- **Education-**
- ◇ Bible study on Romans will start in September
- **Minister's Report:** Pastor Susan
- ◇ **Manage Time/Tasks-(project prep/personal time)-**It has been a heavy month of pastoral care with deaths, difficult doctor visits, and rehab visits. Able to get to personal funeral in July, have another one in August.
- ◇ **Strengthen spiritual growth (members/outreach)-** We brought in Peggy and Carl Winston, and Barb Bley as new members in July and will

August Council Minutes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes– Thursday, August 14, 2025 3:15 p.m.

Attendance -Present-Susan Shiu, George Obermeyer, Phyllis Cavens, Pastor Susan Dollinger, Beth Grambo, Barb Clausen; Absent-Tori Gosh;

Devotions and Prayer – Pastor Susan led devotions similar to the Youth Service Project at the Barnes Gardens.

Call to Order and President's Report – Barb Clausen called the meeting to order at 3:35pm.

- **Decisions made between council meetings: Special Congregational meeting approved the Endowment with ELCA Ministry Growth Fund and elected the members to the committee on June 1. Approved Pastor Susan's Vacation-July 30, 31, August 1, 5th for vacation; Confirmed.**

Agenda Changes-

- Devotions for September 11-Beth Grambo

Secretary's Report – Beth Grambo

- May 15 & notes from June 18 minutes were filed as received;

Treasurer's Report – Susan Shui

July		2025 YTD		July 2024		2024 YTD	
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
\$12,953	\$12,567	\$75,475	\$86,433	\$ 6,127	\$12,162	\$80,772	\$78,066
Exceeded by \$386		fell short by \$10,958		Fell Short by \$6,035		Exceeded by \$2,706	

The 2025 YTD amount does not include the check to Design Sound. The breakdown is as follows:

\$25,842 Paid to Design sound; \$14,670 Contributions and fund balances moved to sound system fund including rummage sale; \$ 9,758 Balance;

- **Synod Remittance** June \$336.06, July \$449.15
- **Emergency Fund Report-** June: Beth's Place-\$221.60, July: Lutheran Disaster Fund Tx flood \$621.60
- **Attendance for Averages:** June 46 & July 47
- **Financial Review Reports for June & July-Approved by consensus.**

Ministry Reports –

- **Hospitality:** Joyce Croy A special thank you to this committee for a wonderful picnic! About 36 people stayed to enjoy the food and fellowship! Thank you to those who helped set up, clean up, and the many trips that were made from the kitchen to make this happen. You are deeply appreciative of the team that warmly provides these events for us and all of those that provide support for their efforts!
- **Memorial:** Joyce Croy No report
- **Worship/Music:** Next meeting Sept. 7
- ◇ Lay lead service August 31; Renee preached on July 27, Russ preaching on August 10th; Thank you to Russ and Renee!

Lower Columbia ELCA Conference of Lutherans

Please join us at Stella Lutheran on Wednesday, Sept. 10th at 11:00 to chance to catch up on summer/fall events and make plans for our next project working together. (What a blessing it was to attend Bob Nelson's (Trinity) memorial service and know so many members from all of our churches. Come join us and help us to decide our next service project, fun event, etc. Please check this date with Pr as she was meeting with Stella.



Upcoming Events

FISH

September 1- Setup
September 2-Distribution

Heavenbound Series

Sept 17, 24 and October 1 from 2:45- 6:00
Signup available in the Narthex table

Council Meeting

September 11 at 3:00

Small Seeds and Sprouts

September 13 at 12:30
Welcome Back!

Rally Day

September 14

Gathering our congregation back after the summer months. We welcome you to celebrate our many blessings!

Baptism of Lily Fiscus

September 14

ELCA Foundation Josh Kerney

September 21 Service

Please join us for a presentation with our ELCA Foundation Representative, Josh Kerney. Josh will discuss financial planning for our future.

Pet Blessing

October 5

35th CONVENTION of the SOUTHWESTERN WASHINGTON SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

October 11, 2025

Bethel Lutheran Church, Brush Prairie, Washington

Called to Rise: Rooted in Worth, Raising the Next Gen-



Called to Rise

Rooted in worth
Raising the
next generation

**The newly elected
Presiding Bishop of the ELCA,
Rev. Yehiel Curry**



Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop.

Before he became a pastor, then a bishop, then the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and now presiding bishop-elect, he was a social worker, then a teacher, then in sales. “I went from being a social worker to a teacher in the same community where I was helping those families, and in both cases, what I learned is passion is very important. And if you can align a person’s passion with a need, then it doesn’t feel like work sometimes.

“It wasn’t until I was in the church that I said, ‘I could do this for the rest of my life.’”

Curry will be installed Oct. 4 at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton served 2 terms as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

*HEAVENBOUND:
PRACTICAL NOTES FOR THE
FAMILY LEFT BEHIND*

Workshop Wed. Sept. 17, 24, and Oct. 1
2:45-6:00

Bethany Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
Facilitators: Barbara Clausen &
Pastor Susan Dollinger

Do you want to make sure your loved one (or you personally) are preparing for a smooth transition from this life? Has your loved one (or you) methodically kept personal records so everything that is needed in an emergency can easily be accessed? What if your loved one is suddenly incapacitated? Are there strong opinions about what the legacy that your loved one or you want to leave? What to be remembered for? Will relatives in a state of grief even remember all the names for the announcement? How do you want the celebration of life to be done? Better to prepare ahead of time than to try to think while grieving!

For this hands-on workshop you will bring your address book, etc. and work in small parts to fill in the day-to-day details of life. (Your work will be confidential and you will keep it with you!) This will better prepare your family if someone passes, is incapacitated, or out of the country for long periods of time.

Join us by signing up and paying a \$8.00 fee (per individual or one copy per couple) to cover three packets of information.

Call Ginger at 360.577.8240 or email
secretary@bethanylongview.org by Sept. 15th.

Opportunities to Gather and Learn

Women's Bible Study

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



September 9, 16, 23, 30 at 10:30 am

Women's Bible Study is based through Gather Magazine, Gather Magazine is \$9.95 for new subscribers.



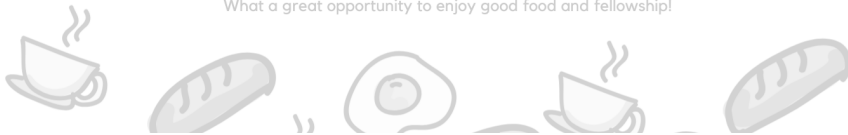
Breakfast Group

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



Longview Mobile Library at Bethany Lutheran Church

Sept 13 1:30-2:30

Sept 27 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	
August	TOTAL
3	34
10	46
17	58
24	47
31	43
Avg	45

Offering to date August	
2024	2025
\$115,093	\$90,391
Expenses to date August	
2024	2025
\$119,208	\$115,800 Includes \$14,842 sound system

Ministry Volunteers

Sunday, September 7 - Communion

Greeter	Susan Shiu
Ushers	_____ / _____
Reader	_____
Communion Setup	Nancy Skora
Communion Assist	Nancy Skora
Powerpoint	Carol Thompson
Live Service	_____
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm
Coffee hour	Judy Bailey/ _____

Sunday, September 14 Rally Day/Communion

Greeter	Barb Clausen
Usher	Karen Langworthy/ Russ Gilchrist
Reader	_____
Communion Setup	Shelly Limpach
Communion Assist	Shelly Limpach
Powerpoint	_____
Live Service	Lee Limpach
Financial Secretary	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee hour	Hospitality

Sunday, September 21 Communion

Greeter	_____
Usher	Chris Engebo/ _____
Reader	Barb Clausen
Communion Setup	Dot Blair
Communion Assist	Pat Reistroffer
Powerpoint	_____
Live Service	_____
Financial Secretary	Barb Wilson
Coffee hour	Beth Grambo

Sunday, September 28- Communion

Greeter	Phyllis Cavens
Ushers	Harold Nunn
Reader	Phyllis Cavens
Communion Setup	Nancy Skora
Communion Assist	Nancy Skora
Powerpoint	Robin Siragusa
Live Service	_____
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm
Coffee hour	Barb Clausen/ Karen Langworthy

SMALL SEEDS
and Sprouts
SEPTEMBER 13 @ 12:30



Lily Michele Fiscus

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 14
 DURING SUNDAY SERVICE

September

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	01 9:00 FISH Setup Labor Day	02 8:30 FISH Distribution 8:00 Breakfast Group 6:00 Boy Scouts PLU Convocation (Pr out of office)	03 12:15 Exec Meeting 1:30 Moments at Bethany	04 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct tape	05 6:00 Girl Scouts	06
07 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Music Worship Sign up for Heavenbound	08	09 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	10 11:00 @ Stella LCLC 1:30 Moments at Bethany	11 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct tape 3:00 Council	12 6:00 Girl Scouts	13 1:30 Mobile Library 12:30-2:30 Small Seeds & Sprouts
14 Rally Day Baptism/New member 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	15	16 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	17 2:45-6:00 Heavenbound	18 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct tape	19 6:00 Girl Scouts	20
21 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Josh Kerney ELCA Found.	22	23 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	24 1:30 Moments at Bethany 2:45-6:00 Heavenbound	25 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct tape	26 6:00 Girl Scouts 10:00 Online Bible Study	27 1:30 Mobile Library
28 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	29	30 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	01 2:45-6:00 Heavenbound	02	03	04