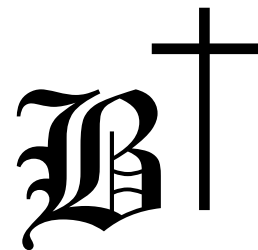


*Bethany Lutheran Church
2900 Parkview Drive
Longview, WA 98632*

December 2025

God's Blessings to . . .



**December 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



*He made the storm be still, and the waves
of the sea were hushed. Psalm 107: 29*

Dear Bethany,

This year, unlike last year, Advent started in November. It is like a shocking surprise. We light more candles and put up a soothing blue to celebrate and to quiet the season. Our liturgical year C (the year of Luke) ends in an odd way. In November on Christ the King Sunday, Jesus is found on the cross. It is more like Good Friday than an entry way into the lovely Advent season. In addition, the first week of Advent in liturgical year A (the year of Matthew) starts with another shocking surprise with scripture about the end times. This also does not seem to match our thinking about the meaning of Advent. Advent does calm down closer to Christmas, but it is supposed to be shocking.

With wars, earthquakes, firestorms, droughts, and floods, hurricanes that devastate, the end times may feel closer than ever before. An Advent reading of end times after the death of Jesus on a cross puts us into the perfect mood of expectation for the coming baby king. In times just like today, times that were uneasy and uncertain and scary, Jesus came to the world. It was also shocking, certainly to the shepherds who were in their fields as they were every night.

As liturgical people our lives are in a continuous cycle between the birth and death and resurrection of Christ. As we enter the Advent season I hope you can allow it to be a time of waiting with expectation for the birth of the Messiah. Be the shepherds in the field as they hear the angels, enjoy the moments from the expectation of end times to the calming moments of new birth. Let us wonder about Jesus and see the hope that is before us. The ins and outs of the seasons do not change some things. Jesus' saving grace, his forgiveness of sins, and his promise of eternal life stay with us always.

May your Advent Season and Christmas be full of wonder and joy,
In peace,

Pastor Susan

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

New Business:

- **Christmas Cards** - Beth will get it organized for council to sign at their December meeting.
- **December Meeting**-Council will meet at Beth Grambo's house at 4:00 for appetizers.
- **Emergency (Snow) Calling List**-was reviewed for calls and cards.
- **Bishop's Letter**-fyi This does not change Bethany's practice;
- **Fundraising**-Please bring ideas to the quarterly meeting so we can spread them out more!

Staff Report –

- **Facility Use Approval**- Ladies of the Lake Sew Fun (Jan. 23-4, March 7-8, May 15-16) donation; Friendship Force Dec. 10th at 5:00 was approved pending completed form. . Rummage Sale Feb 13-14 was approved with the proceeds to go for the sound system in the Fellowship Hall. **All were moved, seconded, and passed.**
- **Vacation Request**- It was moved and seconded to close the office the week of Thanksgiving. Motion carried. (Pastor Susan vacation approved for 11/25-11/26.)Reminder Ginger gone 11/25-11/26.
- **Note:** Ginger kindly came in on Monday, Nov. 3 for the wall in exchange for Thursday, Nov. 6 off.
- **Dor's Birthday**- Nov. 18, staff lunch.
- **Third Thursdays** – I now have a dean's meeting with the bishop on Zoom from 10-11:30 plus a pastor zoom with the synod at 1:00-2:00 pm. I will not be coming up to Longview on the Third Thursdays because of these. (Nov. 20), Dec is uncertain.

Adjournment-Barb Clausen adjourned the meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

Next Scheduled Meetings: Executive Committee Thursday, Dec. 4, 2:00; Council – Thursday, Dec. 11, 4:00pm Bring an appetizer and a beverage.

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) 2nd
7. Tori Gosch (2028) 1st
8. P. Susan Dollinger (Pastor)

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

• Stewardship:

- ◇ Stewardship letters went out week of Oct. 19. Barb Clausen and Nancy Skora will give temple talks in November.
- ◇ Phyllis Cavens- kicked off the drive with a wonderful talk!
- **Mutual Ministry:** Meet and prayed for members.
- **Women's Bible Study**-Meeting Tuesday, 10:30.
- **Education-**
- ◇ Three-part Heavenbound Series had 18-22 people at it each time. Lots of great comments. Thank you Barb Clausen.
- ◇ Women's Bible Study met on Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; November dates: Nov. 4, 18, 25
- ◇ On November 4, eight of us went to lunch in lieu of attending because of the wall construction.
- ◇ Women of Bethany will be reading a book called *Taste and See* by Margaret Feinberg in between gaps of *Gather* magazine.
- **Minister's Report:** Pastor Susan
- ◇ **Manage Time/Tasks**-(project prep/personal time)- Ginger and I were unable to meet in October due to the increased workload and time constraints. We will meet to go over this season as soon as we can.
- ◇ **Strengthen spiritual growth (members/outreach)-**
- ◇ **Other:** Bishop met with the pastors of Lower Columbia in Sept. & the need for resources for healthy small churches was shared;
- ◇ **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. "Telling Your Story; Your Legacy" on hold until January.

Unfinished Business:

- **Lower Columbia Lutheran Conferences**-Met Nov. 5 at 11:00 at BLC. Next meeting is Jan. 14th at Stella—please join us!
- **Endowment Committee**-Susan Shiu It is completely set up.
- **Ministry of the Month** list-postponed.
- **Sound System Report**-We have taken in \$7,151.95 and now have \$8,920.30 towards completing the Fellowship Sound System;
- **Clipboard Volunteer Sign Ups**- The list of who will help each Sunday was completed so we can fill the volunteer slots; Ginger will include it in the weekly volunteer reminders.
- **Fire/Safety Security Plan**-Both fire drill and lock down have been performed.

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

Barbara Bley	Barb Clausen	Duane Thompson
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	Audrey Schauer	The Newtons
David & Dana Hughes	Bob Baldwin	

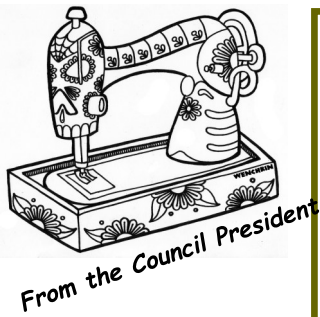


DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01	Ginger Garner	11	Sandra Hubert-Smith
03	Betty Olson	13	Butch Alexander
04	Emily Engebo	15	Riley Goss
05	Barbara Wilson	16	Kim Isakson
	Clarence Newton	28	June White
			Brady Goss

ANNIVERSARIES

20	Duane & Carol Thompson
23	Leonard & Cheryl Bean



Festival of Nativities

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints each year sponsors a Festival of Nativities for the community. There is usually music, cookies, and many, many unique nativities that celebrate the season. It is amazing to see. The public is welcome and there is no charge. If you wish to enjoy, mark your calendar for Dec. 5-7 from 3:00-8:00pm and go to 900 11th Avenue, Longview.

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

Thank you to all of the members/friends of Bethany for the many ways you support God's church! You are truly amazing whether it is your support of the FISH program, the Wall, the Sound System, or remembering to turn in a pledge, etc. You participate in so many things we do here! You are blessed to be a blessing to each other and the outside world!

EMERGENCY FUND Angel Tree

Our focus this month is on the Angel Tree in the Fellowship Hall with tags for families from Columbia Heights, Lexington, and Family Promise. These are young people who will not have a Christmas without help. We are asking for a tag with one toy not to exceed \$25 or a tag for one piece of clothing. (We try to provide for all of the family's children in spite of their age so everyone gets something.) If the burden is too much, feel free to partner with another person for the gift. If you cannot shop and want to make a donation, please make the check to Bethany and memo "Angel Tree," Remember to keep the tag, wrap the gift, and staple the gift receipt to the bag with the tag in case the item has to be exchanged. Last day to hand in your packages is Sunday, December 14th!

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

Ministry Reports –

- **Hospitality:** pulled together coffee hour when there were no hosts and also helped with those unable to stand or clean up. Served 70 people for Noah Custer service, and lunch for Pastor Appreciation. We have moved the Oct. event to 11/15 with jazz/blues with wine and appetizers—tickets will be available for \$15. Planning for Friendship Force on 12/10. Smorgasbord on Dec. 7 5:00pm. Doing a coffee hour for Dor and Chris on Sunday. We will be decorating the church and light lunch with S'mores at the end of the month.
- **Memorial:** Joyce Croy No report
- **Worship/Music:** Sept. 7
 - ◇ Noah Custer Service Oct. 18, 2025
 - ◇ Coming up: Lay led service on Nov. 16, Chris Cotton message, and Beth Grambo leading service
 - ◇ Coming up: Advent will be at noon on 3rd, 10th and 17th "A Peaceful Pause."
 - ◇ Coming up: Christmas Eve will be at 4pm
 - ◇ October-Pet blessing, finished Heavenbound, Beth Grambo-a great job preaching, and also Reformation with the bishop preaching.
 - ◇ Christmas play on Dec. 14th.
- **Youth/Service:**
 - ◇ Grant money: Remaining \$539.97 check to The Refuge for weekend go bags. *No grant money is left except the Peace Health \$1,000 per month for fresh food to Kelso only.*
 - ◇ FISH- Next FISH set up is Dec. 24, distribution 26th. January 2 is the first distribution of 2026
 - ◇ Small Seeds and Sprouts participated in the Pet Blessing, and we had three youth participate in Reformation
 - ◇ They will meet on Nov. 8 They will be learning the New Testament this year.
 - ◇ Girl Scouts will polish the pews and have someone change the furnace filter. In addition, they decorated for the Jazz/Wine event!
- **Duct Tape Crew:** Pastor Susan Dollinger, George Obermeyer;
 - ◇ Retaining wall – Work done the week of Nov. 3rd to repair 92'. Completed (They discovered leaking pipes & needed to put a deeper drainage system than expected. Rock lifted off the wall by hand!
 - ◇ The Lot Damage report-Harry Blair pictures of the hole that was created with a neighbors collapsed sewer line, & said we need to watch for ground settling back. (Justin Ebert spoke with company, they said it will settle out on its own.) Note: The pipes are a foot on our property, without the repairs raw sewage would soon be an issue for Bethany.

November Council Minutes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes– Thursday, Nov.13, 2025 3:00 p.m.

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

Devotions and Prayer – Phyllis Cavens gave us copies of Henri Nouwen's A Spirituality of Fundraising

Call to Order and President's Report – Barb Clausen called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

- **Decisions made between council meetings:** Approved the repair of the north wall at \$ 8923.12 to B& B Construction with no objections from the emergency consensus request of the congregation. Approved the source of funding to pay for the wall repair.
- **Agenda Changes**-Added maturing CD Decision under Treasurer
- **Devotions for Dec. 11-Susan Shiu**
- **Secretary's Report** – Beth Grambo
- Council Minutes Oct. 9, 2025
- Congregational Minutes June 1-approved for congregational meeting;
- **Treasurer's Report** – Susan Shui

October		2025 YTD		October 2024		2024 YTD	
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
\$8,025	\$12,259	\$123,291	\$145,032	\$ 7,371	\$10,195	\$173,175	\$126,193
Fell Short by \$4,277		fell short by \$21,741		Fell Short by \$ 2,824		Exceeded by \$ 46,982	

*** 2025 YTD Does not include \$14,831 sound system

2024 income includes land sale \$63,842.65

- **Retaining Wall-** Balance Due \$7,723.33. Designated funds: Thrivent \$64.00, Capital Improvement \$5,970.21 (\$2,791 of cap imp. earmarked for the wall) Building Fund \$345, checks for \$600 in financial sec. box. With the Capital Improvement money, only \$1,000 remaining to seek donations;
- **Synod Remittance-** \$279.36
- **Emergency Fund Report-** \$111.00 (Pastor Disc. \$22.20, \$29.60 to Columbia Heights \$59.20 Lexington)
- **Attendance for Averages:** 51
- **Maturing CD of \$12,742.48-**It was decided by consensus to move the money into the general fund to cover expenses for the rest of the year instead of keeping it for emergencies;
- **Financial Review Reports for September and October-** included in packet
- **It was moved and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report and the Monthly Financial Review as printed. Motion carried.**

Alabaster Gifts:

At the end of the year, if you are looking at your estimated income tax, confirming that you have met your RDM, etc., and it is not quite enough, now may be the time to consider an alabaster gift to Bethany. What is alabaster? It is a biblical symbol of generosity, a spiritual act, not an obligation. It is gratitude for the gifts God has given you this year, and an opportunity to support his church. So when you are completing year-end obligations and considering charities, remember alabaster gifts! God bless you!

FISH



We have back to back holiday weeks serving FISH. Christmas Eve Setup and Distribution on December 26, then again on January 1 setup and January 2 distribution. We will be feeding 50 families over the 2 weeks. All helping hands are needed and greatly appreciated

We are in need of the following:

Soup, Oatmeal, Mac n Cheese, Toilet paper, Peanut Butter, Canned Fruit and Veggies, Pasta and Sauce.



Bethany Lutheran Church
Small Seeds and Sprouts

December 14

Upcoming Events

Advent Services

December 3, 10, 17

Service 12:00/Lunch 12:30

Smorgasbord

December 7 @ 5:00

The Men's Choir at 5:00 in the Sanctuary

Dinner immediately following, Sign up in narthex

Council Meetings

Executive Meeting (zoom) December 3 @ 12:15

In Person Meeting December 11 at 3:00

Small Seeds and Sprouts

December 13 at 12:30—2:15

Pageant December 14 Service

Comfort and Hope service

December 21 @ 4:00

A time to be together when we are not feeling as merry.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 @ 4:00

Candlelight service

Christmas Day

December 25

Office Closed

FISH Setup and Distribution

Setup December 24

Distribution December 26

We will be doing another Distribution the next week on January 2

DUCT TAPE

needs



**Duct Tape meets every Thursday at
9:00 am with a coffee and donut break
at 10:00 am**

**We are in need of able-bodied
volunteers to help clean and maintain
Bethany.**

ATTENDANCE

November	TOTAL
2	50
9	53
16	48
23	42
30	49
Avg	48

Offering to date November

2024	2025
\$183,300 Includes land sale \$63,689	\$143,422
Expenses to date October	
2024	2025
\$133,933	\$150,899 Includes \$14,842 sound system



We have many people to thank from November and into the Advent season

To all of those who have donated to the retaining wall repairs, thank you! Your contributions are appreciated.

Thank you to Hospitality Team for a fun filled All that Jazz night, You are appreciated

Thank you to Duct Tape, and to Carol Thompson for the season of November. It is always a season of many banner changes and sand pouring for the candles (and a lot of work). Thank you.

Thank you for turning in your pledges. You can still turn them in if needed. We deeply appreciate them as they help us prepare a budget for next year.

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS,
Pastor Susan



Fall is the perfect time for self-reflection. As the days grow shorter, find time for quiet, grounding moments to embrace the coziness of the season. What are some self care activities that will bring you contentment?

Helping Others by Giving

The Service and Youth Committee is sponsoring two families for Christmas—different than the Thanksgiving families. We have one family from Columbia Heights Elementary, one large family from Lexington Elementary and one family from Family Promise. Our Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall holds tags for one toy and one clothing item for each child. Please staple your store receipt to the tag, giftwrap the item with the tag attached to the outside and return by Sunday, December 14 under the Angel Tree. Then we will add money so the family are able to buy the food for Christmas dinner and the long winter vacation.

ANGEL TREE TAGS

DECEMBER 2-14

All gifts must be wrapped with the tag fastened to the outside of the package.

They must be returned no later than December 14th in order to be delivered to the school before they are let out for break.

Opportunities to Gather and Learn

Women's Bible Study

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



December 2, 9, 16, 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 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.

During the colder months and inclement weather, we meet in the faith room at Bethany

Ministry Volunteers

Wednesday, December 24 Communion

Greeter	_____
Usher	_____ / _____
Reader	_____
Powerpoint	_____
Live Service	_____
Coffee hour	Cookies

Sunday, December 30 Communion

Greeter	_____
Ushers	_____ / _____
Reader	Duane Thompson
Communion Setup	_____
Communion Assist	_____
Powerpoint	_____
Live Service	_____
Financial Secretary	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee hour	Carol Thompson/ _____
Volunteer Signup	

Advent Luncheon Volunteers

December 3		December 10		December 17	
Setup	Carol Thompson	Setup		Setup	
Soup	Duane & Carol Thompson	Soup		Soup	
Bread	Barb Clausen	Bread	Barb Clausen	Bread	Phyllis Cavens
Cleanup	Carol Thompson	Cleanup		Cleanup	

Volunteers Needed

Please sign up for Sunday worship slots. We need people from Greeter to Coffee Hour every week. (We also could use a Volunteer Coordinator). Sunday worship is at the heart of what we do here at Bethany. There are many roles available. Thank you so much.

Ministry Volunteers

Sunday, December 7 Communion

Greeter	Barb Clausen
Ushers	Russ Gilchrist/ _____
Reader	Barb Clausen
Communion Setup	Shelly Limpach
Communion Assist	Shelly Limpach
Powerpoint	Dan Lane
Live Service	Lee Limpach
Financial Secretary	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee hour	_____ -In Faith room
Volunteer Sign up	_____

Sunday, December 14 Communion

Greeter	Small Seeds
Usher	_____ / _____
Reader	Small Seeds
Communion Setup	Pat Reistroffer
Communion Assist	Pat Reistroffer
Powerpoint	_____
Live Service	_____
Financial Secretary	Barb Wilson
Coffee hour	Phyllis Cavens/ Barb Clausen
Volunteer Sign up	Barb Clausen

Sunday, December 21 Communion

Greeter	Phyllis Cavens
Usher	_____ / _____
Reader	Phyllis Cavens
Powerpoint	_____
Live Service	_____
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm
Coffee hour	Pam van den Driessche/ Sandra Hubert-Smith
Volunteer Sign up	_____

Sunday, December 21 Communion Comfort and Hope

Usher	_____ / _____
Reader	_____
Communion Setup	_____
Communion Assist	_____
Live Service	_____

SMALL SEEDS and Sprouts



REHEARSALS FOR WILD WEST CHRISTMAS

December 6 12:30-1:30

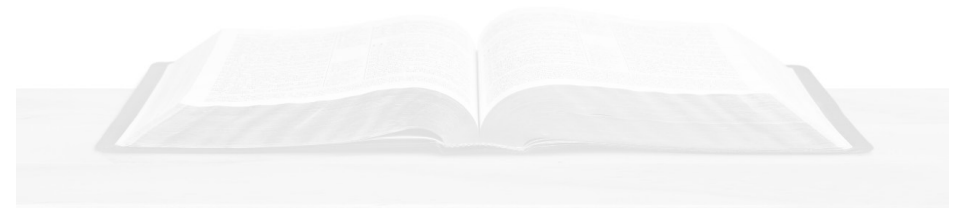
December 13 12:30-2:00

BIBLE STUDY Book of Romans

Online Fri @ 10:00 am/ in person Sun @ 11:15 am

Ch. 12, 13 & 14 12/05, 12/07

Ch. 15 & 16 12/12, 12/14





SMORGASBORD

Sunday, December 7 | At 5 PM

SIGN UP IN NARTHEX

Requested Dishes

Cooked Turkey Breast and Ham

Meatballs and Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy

Hot Side Dishes

Salads Green/Fruit/relish Tray

Breads and Desserts

December

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	01	02 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study	03 12:00 Advent Service 12:30 Lunch 1:30 Moments at Bethany	04 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct tape 2:00 Exec Meeting Zoom	05	06 12:30-1:30 Small Seeds & Sprout Christmas Pageant
07 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study 5:00 Smorgasbord/Choir	08	09 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	10 12:00 Advent Service 12:30 Lunch 1:30 Moments at Bethany Friendship Force Dinner	11 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct tape 3:00 Council	12 6:00 Girl Scouts	13 12:30-2:00 Small Seeds & Sprouts Pageant Practice
14 Sunday Service/ Pageant 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	15	16 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	17 12:00 Advent Service 12:30 Lunch 1:30 Moments at Bethany	18 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct tape 12:30 David- Kelso Cinema	19 6:00 Girl Scouts	20
21 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study 4:00 Comfort and Hope	22	23 8:00 Breakfast Group 6:00 Boy Scouts	24 9:00 FISH Setup 4:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED	26 8:30 FISH Distribution	27
28 Sunday Service- Carols and Communion 9:30 Worship 10:30 Cookie Fellowship 11:15 Bible Study	29	30 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	31 1:30 Moments at Bethany NEW YEARS EVE	01	02	03