



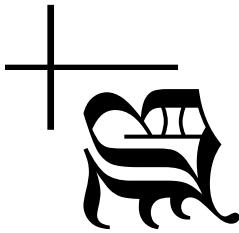
February 2026
Newsletter

Bethany Lutheran Church



Bethany Lutheran Church
2900 Parkview Drive
Longview, WA 98632

God's Blessings to ...



February 2026

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



God Is Love. Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

Dear Bethany,

In a month where love is supposed to be celebrated, where hearts and chocolate candies are shared, we are also dealing with very disturbing news, and images of terrible things especially in Minneapolis. Racism, hatred and fear are highly visible and yet Jesus tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Jesus didn't clarify what a neighbor looked like, what race they were, economic status, whether foreign born or even what religion someone was. We are reminded of that powerful fact in the parable of the Good Samaritan. The people who would have been considered a neighbor walked by on the other side of the road. The Samaritan was the least likely to ever be considered a neighbor to the injured man, and yet that was the one who was a neighbor.

Today, the opposite of anything we would hope for any neighbor is happening. We see children being taken, and people, regardless of citizen status, violently being taken from their homes. This isn't about deportation, it is about humanity. And people are being treated anything but humane. It's awful. And scary.

In a recent email from Bishop Keith, he spoke to the violence and dehumanization that is happening in our country. This is a quote from his letter:

"In this moment, I invite you to guard your hearts and minds from the violence and hate. Do not blind yourself to it, nor ignore it, hoping it will simply go away. Rather, I invite you to follow the way of Christ: praying for all who grieve, naming injustice wherever it occurs, and refusing to let fear, anger, or ideology eclipse our calling to love our neighbor, to stand with the marginalized, and to bear faithful witness to the gospel."

So how do we do it? How do we keep our hearts and minds filled with love, compassion, and kindness instead of hatred and anger? We need to keep turning to Christ. We need to love fiercely and hold on to Jesus and let his light shine through and keep praying for our definition of neighbor to equal that of Christ.

Pastor Susan

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

- **Vacation-Request** Pastor Susan for vacation Jan. 29-30 after the Byberg conference. **It was moved, seconded and passed to approve vacation.**

Announcements and Adjournment – Barb Clausen adjourned at 3:49.

Next Scheduled Meetings: Council Officers' Election Jan. 25 following congregational meeting; Executive Committee – Wednesday, Feb. 4, 12:15

Council – Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026 – 3:00 pm

ATTENDANCE	
January	TOTAL
4	54
18	47
18	50
25	51
Avg	51

Offering to date January	
2025	2026
9592.65	15,006.02
Expenses to date January	
2025	2026
12348.52	13,550.78

Name/Position/Term
1. John Pelster (2029)
2. Barbara Clausen (2027)
3. Susan Shiu (Treasurer)
4. Phyllis Cavens (2029)
5. George Obermeyer (2029)
6. Beth Grambo (2027)
7. Tori Gosch (2028)
8. P. Susan Dollinger(Pastor)

Please have newsletter articles submitted before February 20

While all efforts are made to keep original submissions, article submissions are subject to editing for accuracy, spelling, grammar and formatted to fit in the space allowed.

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

New Business:

- **Flu**-with the increased numbers getting the flu, it was decided by consensus to put the sanitation table (masks/fluid) back out and encourage members who wish to use the peace sign instead of handshakes to do so to decrease the spread of the disease;
- **Approval of New Members** (not transfers)-Pastor Susan **It was moved and seconded to approve Harold Nunn for membership and Cyndie Long as new members of Bethany as they are available.** Motion carried.
- **Planning/Annual Meeting**-Barb C (devotions.; 2 Microphones; table set up; ballots; music;)

Jan. 6 Council Meeting & Budget Development 2:00pm
Meeting Notice to All Members Thursday, Sent Jan. 8
Annual Report Distributed Jan. 18 (one per family)
Annual Meeting (in person) Sunday, Jan. 25 10:45+ with potluck brunch
Directories Ready-Jan. 25

- **Approval of Letter and Agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting** -Edited and approved by consensus;
- **Recommendation to the Congregation 2026 Annual Budget**-Susan S **It was moved and seconded to recommend the 2026 budget as developed for consideration and possible approval by the congregation.** Motion carried.
- **Emergency Fund List 2026**-Barb C the list was modified and approved by consensus;
- **Ministry List 2026**-Barb C **It was moved and seconded to approve as edited.** Motion carried.

Quarterly Meeting of Members-Feb. 12th, 4:30—Bring new ideas & discussion topics.

2026 Nominations Committee Report-Barb C reported on their progress. Hope to finish next week.

Longview Mobile Library Contract-It was moved and seconded to approve the contract. Motion carried.

Staff Report –

Facility Use -None

Pastor Zoom-one Thursday a month will work from home for confidential Bishop's zoom during Duct Tape cleaning—very difficult to hear;

Thankful for the hard work of Ginger, Dor, and Pastor this season—thank you!

Mileage-Pastor went over the budget for her visitations and donated Nov-Dec in spite of our encouragement for her to go over the amount. Will note in 2026 budget.

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

June White	Barbara Bley	Barb Clausen
Judy Bailey	John Mullaney	Kim Isakson
Barbara Price	Gail Obermeyer	Jennifer Nance
Takko family	Custer family	Gilchrist family
Bob Baldwin	Krista & John Croy	The Milhisers
Thibodeau family	The Milhisers	David & Dana Hughes
	The Newtons	

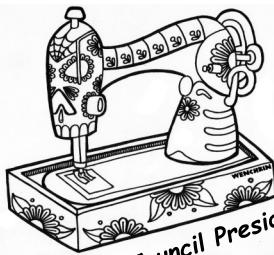


FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02	Nancy Skora	18	Wayne Spriggle
07	Mary Storm	21	Pat Reistroffer
09	Robert Price		Dan Lane
15	Steve Smith		Pastor Susan Dollinger
		24	Tim Marshall

ANNIVERSARIES

13	Harry & Dorothy Blair
18	Dan & Carol Lane



From the Council President

Emergency Fund for February

"This month, as we continue our mission to support local needs, we invite you to join us in caring for a very special program, Beth's Place, a youth shelter for unhoused young people.

Located in the historic Carriage House on 12th, Beth's Place provides a safe and welcoming home for up to 40 youth. The facility includes a commercial kitchen, and the hope is that, over time, youth will be able to gain valuable job training and certification to help them build a brighter future.

Participants commit to staying free from addictions, attending regular counseling, setting personal goals, pursuing education, and working toward employment.

We're grateful to have Christin from Zesty Chef Catering volunteering to design nutritious dinners and train one student each evening. Breakfasts and grab-and-go lunches are also offered when possible.

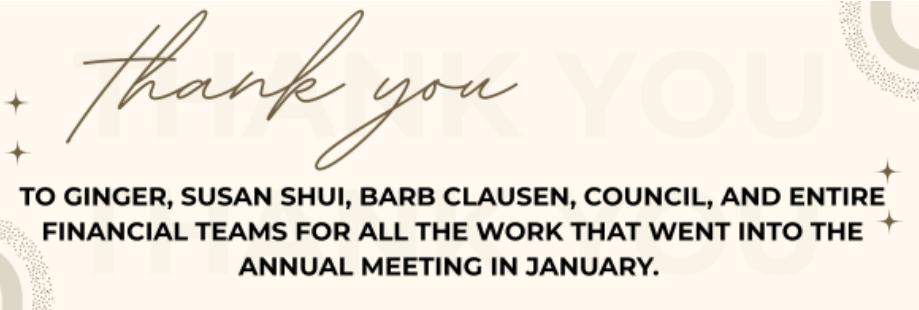
please make checks payable to the church with "Beth's Place" in the memo line. These funds will be used to purchase perishable food items for the youth.

Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of these young people, offering not just meals, but hope, stability, and the promise of a new beginning.

PLTS has a wonderful set of 6-week online asynchronous courses **scheduled for 2026** on topics related to **Racial Justice and Faith**.

These classes are **designed for anyone** - clergy or lay, any age, any identity, any level of church involvement. No undergraduate degree is required. The cost is only **\$250 per course** (with group and PLTS alumni discounts), and upon completion of four courses, one will receive a Certificate in Racial Justice and Faith from PLTS.

For questions, please contact Sheryl Johnson, Faculty Lecturer, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary at sjohnson@ses.gtu.edu.



Council Meeting Minutes Continued

• Worship/Music:

- ◊ Meeting Jan.11th; Russ Gilchrist will preach on Jan. 11th;
- ◊ Lent starting Feb. 18th Ash Wednesday;

• Youth/Service:

Barb Clausen

- ◊ Christmas monies and gifts delivered to schools along with Angel Tree Gifts
- ◊ FISH-Set up Dec. 31 & distributed Jan. 2 to 13 seniors, 36 adults, 41 kids, and 5 babies for total of 95! Need pasta, shampoo, toilet paper—all is welcome!

- ◊ Small Seeds & Sprouts: Delightful "Wild West Christmas" pageant! Grateful for many youth! Meeting Jan. 10th, helping with service Jan. 11, and working on New Testament;

• Duct Tape Crew:

Dave Foslien & Carol Thompson

- ◊ Christmas Decorations will be put away Sunday, January 4th
- ◊ Maintenance-Weekly work & checked monthly list—seeking volunteers;

- ◊ Life Works Jeremy is 1 hr. per wk., Jonathan helper great—will get guidance in mopping the floors;

- ◊ Wall-the wall tested well and seems secure—grateful for the contributions;

• Stewardship:

- ◊ Thank you for the many pledges in an excellent drive! We received 39—the most in years!! Financial Secretaries guesstimate for budget development—this is so helpful! Thank you!

- ◊ Tax statements prepared for pick up by Financial Secretaries—please pick up;

• Mutual Ministry:

• Education:

- ◊ **Women's Bible Study**- Meeting each Tuesday, 10:30 Jan.6, 13, 20, & 27 Using *Taste and See* by Margaret Feinberg in between *Gather* gaps;

- ◊ **Bible Study Class**-Completed Romans study; Starting Matthew in January; (Fri/Sundays)

- ◊ **Confirmation Update**- Several doing it!

Minister's Report:

Pastor Susan

- **Time/Task reduce workload/stress**-Met with Ginger and will try to do so more regularly. Needs more flexibility in time off.

- **Lead New Resources for outreach**: Two people will join Bethany;

- **Goal/Action Plan Progress Report**: We had 70 at our Smorgasbord dinner and 60 at holiday services;

Unfinished Business:

Sanctuary Sound System February date-Pastor Susan

January Council Minutes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes – Thursday, January 6, 2026

Opening Prayer-Phyllis Cavens

Budget Development-Council developed the proposed budget and made clarifications in the columns to increase understanding.

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

Devotions and Prayer – Beth Grambo led us in prayer.

Call to Order and President's Report – Barbara Clausen

- Decisions made between Council Meetings: Approved vacation dates for Ginger Garner and Pastor Susan Dollinger for Dec.30 and approved pastor to carry over remaining vacation in anticipation of a trip with her husband later. Approved the Cold Weather Shelter for the January Emergency Fund donation.

- Agenda Changes-Flu discussion.

- Devotions for Thursday, February 12th, 3:00 Council Meeting-Barb C

Secretary's Report – Beth Grambo

Approved December minutes as emailed

Treasurer's Report – Susan Shi

December		2025 YTD		December 2024		2024 YTD	
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
\$13,080	\$13,168	\$155,664	\$153,344	\$ 9,739	\$11,928	\$183,300	\$151,773
Fell short by \$88	Exceeded by \$2,320	Fell Short by \$ 2,189	Exceeded by \$ 31,527				

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

2024 income includes land sale \$63,842.65

2025 YTD offerings exceeded the expenditures by \$2,320!

- **Synod Remittance**-Undesignated benevolence \$414.40
- **Emergency Fund Report**- Angel Tree gifts this month
- **Attendance for December Avg.** 51 & Special services: Comfort-10, Eve 60; Isakson's & Schauer's were able to join us!

It was moved and seconded to approve the financial report as stated. Motion carried.

Ministry Reports –

Hospitality: Joyce Croy

- ◊ Annual Meeting Potluck Brunch-Jan. 25th immediately after service;
- ◊ Friendship Force (outside group fundraiser 23 attended with approx. income of \$190. Proceeds \$100 to FH Sound System and balance for kitchen supplies.
- ◊ Hospitality donated \$100 to the FH sound system
- **Memorial**: Joyce Croy (No report)

Ministry of the Month: Hospitality Team

The ministry to honor this month is one committee with a big heart! The Hospitality Committee has blessed us with many good meals as well as fun events such as the smorgasbord, the picnic, the October dinner, Easter Brunch, and many more! In addition, they have catered events at our church for other organizations, memorials, etc. They make many of the dishes themselves, donate the ingredients, as well as the huge labor that is involved. With the proceeds from these events this year they have helped Bethany pay for painting, replaced the kitchen leaky sink, and replaced the worn-out carpet in the Faith Room. There are many helpers but the faithful “energizer bunnies” to name a few: Joyce Croy, Tory Gosch, Karen Langworthy, Nancy Skora, Shelley and Lee Limpach, Dan Lane, and Barb Wilson.

“You were hungry and I fed you...”
Homeless in Our Community

Please start watching the sales & start gathering for Lent—Bring to the church Fellowship Hall between March 4 and Wednesday March 25 at 5:00pm to assemble!

- Socks (this is the #1 most asked-for item)
- Gloves
- Bandages
- Wet wipes
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Sunscreen
- Tuna or chicken & cracker packs
- Single-serving soft snacks like trail mix, crackers, cheese sticks
- Nail clippers
- Cups: peanut butter cups, soup, fruit
- Drink packets: Cocoa, coffee, cider
- Meat Sticks (individually wrapped)



Upcoming Events

Music and Worship Meeting

February 8 @11:15

Council and Quarterly meeting

February 12

3:00 Council

4:30 Quarterly

Estate Rummage Sale

February 13 & 14

All proceeds go to the Sound System Fund for Bethany

Small Seeds and Sprouts

February 14 @ 12:30

Ash Wednesday

February 1

Women of Bethany Meeting

March 31 @ 10:30

All Women of Bethany welcome

Bethany Lutheran Church

Wednesday Evening
Services throughout Lent

Soup Supper at 5:00

Services at 5:45



Lenten What to Give up



As you prepare for the forty days, here are two ideas of what you might consider walking with Jesus through the wilderness. I have a friend who is going to take one thing from their closet (or kitchen) each day of Lent and place it in a box. Then at Easter that box(es) will go to her charity—a local food pantry, Red Hat, or other organization of choice. She says it helps her feel grateful for what she has and helps her to focus on Jesus as she gives up items—a small sacrifice beside giving up His life!

Another idea is what we have shared before that has a special meaning in these difficult times:

Give up worry—focus on gratitude

Give up pessimism---focus on optimism

Give up bitterness---turn to forgiveness

Give up complaining---trust Divine Providence

Give up hatred---return good for evil

Give up negativism---be positive

Give up anger---be more patient

Give up pettiness---become mature

Give up jealousy---pray for trust

Give up gossiping---control your tongue

Give up sin---turn to virtue

Give up giving up---hang in there!

Give up gloom---enjoy the surrounding beauty

“Faith, AI, and Christian Ethics”



Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling
Bishop Emeritus, Montana Synod

Saturday, February 21st
10am - 2pm
\$25

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
1601 North St SE - Olympia, WA 98501

What does Artificial Intelligence (AI) have to do with our Christian faith? And how ought Christians use it in a faithful and ethical way?

Please join us for a learning experience that will engage you more deeply in bridging God's call to follow Jesus with the latest advances in human-constructed AI.



If you are interested in attending, please let Pr. Susan know as soon as possible,
Registration deadline is Feb 18.

We would like to arrange a carpool

SAVE THE DATES!

YOUR LEGACY: IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO IMPACT LIVES!
WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 4, 11, & 25 FROM 2:00-4:00PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL AT BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2900 PARKVIEW DR.

PUBLIC WELCOME!

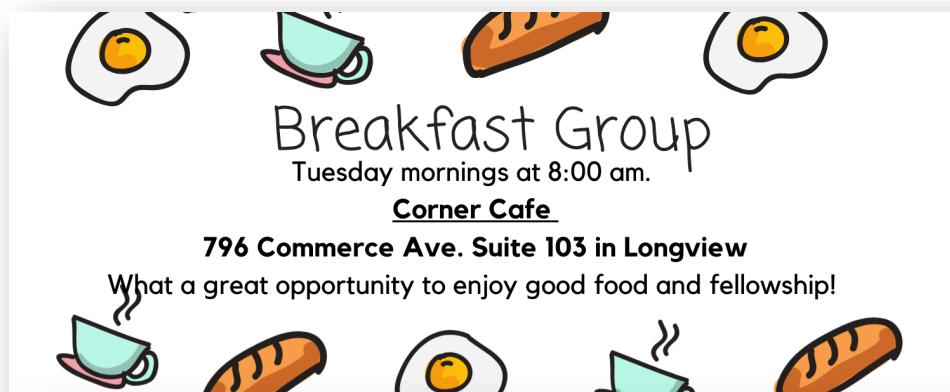


Do you have some great stories from your childhood? Miracle moments in your life? Insights about some of life's transitions? How was your life impacted by the events of the decade? Were you on a faith journey you want to include? We will facilitate a look back at the decade together and brainstorm to get your creative juices flowing. After setting your own goal, then you will have think time to jot down ideas either on paper or on your own laptop. We will do 2-3 decades a night with time for breaks and volunteer brief sharing. Participants will then complete their legacy memories for the following week.

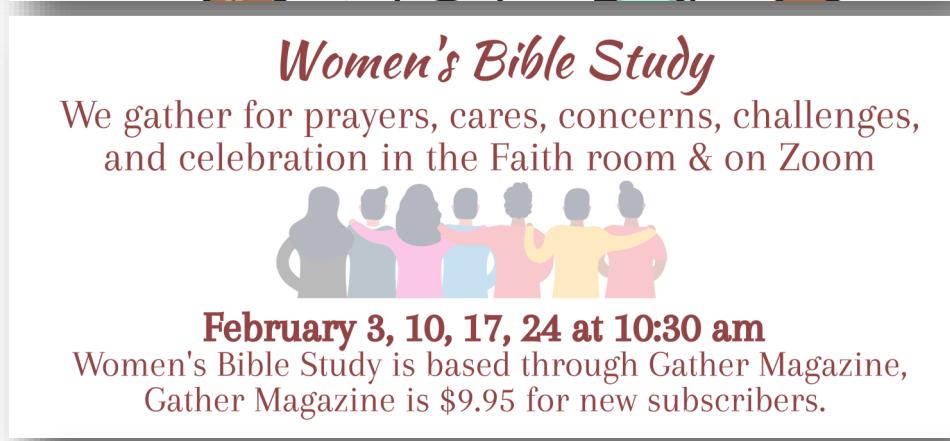
You will receive a free booklet to help you with the process. If needed, we will try to seek volunteers to help you desktop publish your work. Then we will give ideas of how to self-publish for family or friends—over 3 million are published in the U.S. each year—what a legacy for your friends and family! A free will offering will be collected.

Set the dates and sign up at 360.577.8240 at Bethany.

Opportunities to Gather and Learn

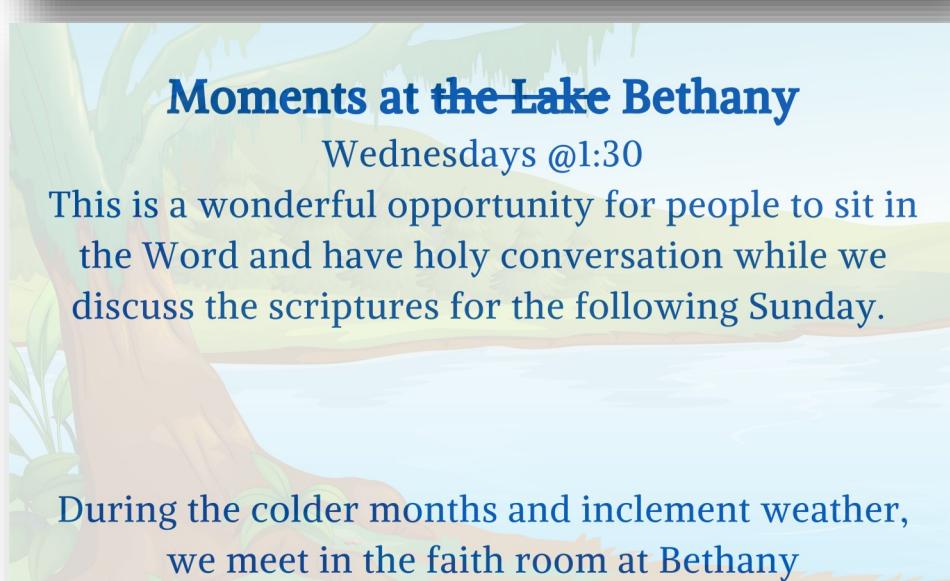


Breakfast Group
Tuesday mornings at 8:00 am.
Corner Cafe
796 Commerce Ave. Suite 103 in Longview
What a great opportunity to enjoy good food and fellowship!



Women's Bible Study
We gather for prayers, cares, concerns, challenges, and celebration in the Faith room & on Zoom

February 3, 10, 17, 24 at 10:30 am
Women's Bible Study is based through Gather Magazine, Gather Magazine is \$9.95 for new subscribers.



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

Sunday, February 1 Communion

Greeter	Barb Utto
Ushers	Tom Hughes III/_____
Reader	Duane Thompson
Communion Setup	Barb Utto
Communion Assist	
Powerpoint	Carol Thompson
Live Service	
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm
Coffee hour	_____ / _____

Sunday, February 8 Communion

Greeter	_____ / _____
Usher	
Reader	Renee Pelster
Communion Setup	Reistroffers
Communion Assist	Reistroffers
Powerpoint	
Live Service	John Pelster
Financial Secretary	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee hour	Debra Takko/ _____

Sunday, February 15 Small Seeds Sunday/ Communion

Greeter	Small Seeds
Usher	Tom Hughes/ Harry Blair
Reader	Small Seeds
Communion Setup	Dot Blair
Communion Assist	
Powerpoint	
Live Service	Barb Wilson
Financial Secretary	
Coffee hour	_____ / _____

Sunday, February 22 - Communion

Greeter	_____ / _____
Ushers	
Reader	Carol Thompson
Communion Setup	
Communion Assist	
Powerpoint	
Live Service	
Financial Secretary	Mary Strom
Coffee hour	Barb Wilson/ _____

Thank you

I'd like to express a very heartfelt THANK YOU to all that helped me celebrate my 97th birthday in such great style. From the beginning of the Sunday worship service, to the lovely brunch provided by the Hospitality Committee, to the colorful birthday cards, and to the many phone calls and messages received with great glee, MY HEART SINGS OUT LOUD AND CLEAR THANK YOU to one and all.

A most grateful,
Judy Bailey

SMALL SEEDS *and Sprouts*

FEBRUARY 14 12:30-2:00



SWWA SYNOD
LAY MINISTRY

New PSALM Cohort

FIRST COHORT RETREAT
APRIL 24-25, 2026
AT SACRED WATERS RETREAT CENTER,
UNION, WA

ARE YOU INTERESTED?
CONTACT
REV. MICHELLE DE BEAUCHAMP AT
MICHELLE.DEBEAUCHAMP@SWWASYNOD.ORG

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Join Us for

BIBLE STUDY

ONLINE FRIDAYS 10:00 am IN PERSON SUNDAYS 11:15 am

Beginning February 13 and 15

Book of Matthew



Join online on Zoom
ID 6153119848
Password 2900



Bethany Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	2	3 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	4 12:15 Exec Meeting 1:30 Moments	5 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT		6 6:00 Girl Scouts
8 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	9	10 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	11 10:00 Mutual Ministry 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	12 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT 3:00 Council 4:30 Quarterly	13 10:00 Bible Study Online Rummage Sale 12:30 Small Seeds & Sprouts	14 Rummage Sale 12:30 Small Seeds & Sprouts
15 Sunday Service Small Seeds/Sprouts 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	16	17 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	18 Ash Wednesday 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	19 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT	20 10:00 Bible Study Online 6:00 Girl Scouts	21
22 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	23	24 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	25 1:30 Moments @ Bethany 5:00 Dinner 5:45 Service	26 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT	27 10:00 Bible Study Online 6:00 Girl Scouts	28