

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

March 2026

God's Blessings to . . .



**March 2026
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



¹⁷ They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' ¹⁸ And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Matthew 14: 17-18

In our Women's Bible Study we are looking at a book called *Taste and See* by Margaret Feinberg. It is a book about the Biblical Food in the Bible, and chapter two is all about fish. Part of the chapter talked about the Ichtyus Fish. It is a Christian symbol seen on the back of vehicles. It was used to help those of the faith, identify each other without words. As a persecuted people they were not able to share their beliefs openly. So one person would make an arch in the sand and if the other person completed the arch, making the fish symbol, that was to say – "Me too," and they would know they were among a believer. The Greek letters in the middle, Ἰησοῦς Χριστός Θεοῦ Υἱός Σωτήρ means Jesus Christ God's Son Savior. It told you what you needed to know in just a few letters.

Most people these days wear a cross to symbolize their Christian faith. We can do so openly. But certainly during Lent, we should not forget that the cross was not a positive thing in Jesus' day. It was used as a torture device. In the Catholic church Jesus hangs on the cross (called a crucifix) to remind you that it is your sins that got him there, Jesus remains in Good Friday mode. In the Lutheran church (and Protestant churches) Jesus has been freed from the cross to symbolize putting our hope in the resurrection. Jesus remains in Easter.

As we stand in Lent, we can see both sides of the cross, and while we would rather gallop toward Easter, it should not be without the reminder that it took a dark Good Friday in order for Easter morning to occur.

Let us be mindful of that, and let us sincerely be thankful to God for the Good Friday that he endured for us to be Easter people.

Pastor Susan



Council Meeting Minutes Continued

for service and repair, to be paid from the **maintenance budget**.
Family Promise Pie Fundraiser- Willamette Valley Pie Co fundraiser to expand services, council declined to participate by consensus.

Staff Report –

For Approval: Motion made, seconded, and **approved** for March 17th off for Continuing Education (Racial Justice Training)

Facility Use

Reminder Ladies of the Lake donated \$140 for January use and are approved for March 27-28;

ATTENDANCE		Offering to date February	
February	TOTAL	2025	2026
1	50		
8	54	\$19,700	\$26,171
15	45	Expenses to date February	
22	39	2025	2026
Avg	51	\$24,592	\$26,054

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
March 19*

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

Education

Bible Study- Bible study on Matthew starts Feb. 13/15 runs through May.

Women of Bethany

- Sent out coffee survey (still collecting but overall everyone is ok with simpler cookie/coffee model with less clean up) – Survey complete, 28 replies Feb 8
- Decided to continue the Women of Bethany group that meets every 5th Tuesday at 10:30.

Minister's Report: Pastor Susan

- **Support Increased Membership-** Two people will join Bethany we will need to find the right time.
- **Time/Task Planning & Management-** Had a lovely few days of vacation. It was very needed.
- **Other: Attended Byberg conference.** Topic was social justice with special guest Rick Steves.

Unfinished Business:

- **Lower Columbia Lutheran Conferences -** Collecting supplies for Rainbow Cart at library.
- **Willet Stained Glass Studios Free Inspection-** To be scheduled end of Feb- beginning of March at their convenience
- **Directory-**A special thank you to Ginger for this endeavor! Due date for corrections? **March 1st.**
- **Council Leadership Plan –** By consensus, Beth Grambo will serve as President pro-tem, Barbara Clausen will serve as Vice President pro-tem, Tori Gosch will serve as Secretary pro-tem, while the official Executive Council remains unchanged.

New Business:

- **Quarterly Member Meeting Agenda-** Thursday, Feb.12th 4:30 Please stay for meeting. And bring calendars.
- **Council Retreat-**Saturday, March 7 9:00-4:00 - Retreat will be held at **Bethany**. Potluck snacks will be provided. Members should bring their own drinks. Please bring **\$7 for pizza**.
- **Sound System Report Schedules Meeting-**February – they will come right away, will schedule after estate sale.
- **Estate Sale Report from Karen Langworthy-Friday, Feb. 13 and Saturday, 14th 9:00-4:00 and 9:00-3:00**
- **Council Installation** Feb. 8 during service – all present
- **Approval: Lawn Mower Repair \$250 (motor sputtering) –** There should be a lawnmower check up every year (to sharpen blades and get oil changed) Thought it would cost about \$200 a year. Motion made, seconded, and approved for a **one-time \$250** expense

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		



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03 Pam Van den Driessche	18 Suzanne Arnits
10 Joyce Croy	Perry Fiscus
Kaytlynn Croy	20 Susan Nance
15 George Obermeyer	27 Lily Fiscus
16 Barb Utto	

ANNIVERSARIES

22 Kim & Marilyn Isakson

March Emergency Fund: Family Promise

This month, Bethany highlights Family Promise, an organization working to prevent families—and especially children—from experiencing homelessness. According to the U.S. Council on Homelessness, 1 in 19 children will face homelessness before age six.

Family Promise serves families in crisis by providing temporary housing, counseling in job skills and parenting, goal-setting with accountability, and help with employment. Children are bused to their home schools, as required by the McKinney-Vento Act, so their education is disrupted as little as possible.

Family Promise is supported through grants, donations, limited county funding, and community goodwill. Your gifts and prayers truly make a difference.

Newsletter: office@fpcowlitz.org

Tours: 215 Academy Avenue

Join Bethany this month by placing your Second-Mile (extra) giving in the Family Promise Emergency Fund plate at the back of the sanctuary.

Ministry of the Month: Bethany Staff & Volunteers

What a team we have in our three wonderful leaders who provide outstanding support for our church! Their inspiration, dedication, and tireless energy help make worship meaningful and our many ministries possible. They are not only skilled leaders, but also thoughtful listeners and encouragers as we work together in service.

We also give heartfelt thanks to all of Bethany's volunteers. Your faithful work keeps our church in tip-top shape, ensures services run smoothly, and plays a vital role in our outreach to the community. Bethany would not be the same without you.

Worship/Music:

- Coming up: Music and Worship meeting on Feb. 8th.
- Chris Cotton preached (pastor present) on Feb. 1 Thank you Chris!
- Ash Wednesday Feb. 18 5:00 (soup) 5:45 Service
- Maundy Thursday April 2, Good Friday April 3, (5:00 Soup, 5:45 Service) Easter April 5
- Lay led service will be moved due to Holy week events to April 19th - Motion made, seconded, and **approved**.
- Lent services will focus on healing.
- Girl scouts will come in on March 11 to sell cookies during soup supper.

Youth/Service: Barb Clausen

- Next FISH- Monday, March 2 Canned fruit, tomato sauce, canned tomatoes, top ramen, canned beans, chili, dish soap, shampoo, toilet paper
- Small Seeds will meet Feb. 14 (depending on Rummage sale)
- Rainbow Cart – March 25th end of Lent
- Lenten Homeless Bags-March 25th
- Small Seeds and Sprouts met on Jan. 10 and were gifted a Pizza Party by Susan Nance. Thank you Susan!.
- Several will confirm this year.

Duct Tape Crew: Pastor Susan Dollinger, George Obermeyer, Dan Lane, Carol Thompson

- Heat is working – but there seems to be a few more heating issues. Heating person also changed filter in crawl space furnace.
- Tree in north was cut down.
- Music and sound will come and check the system this month.
- Rearranged a wire with the Ring system. Hopeful that will help make it run smoother.
- Building evacuated for possible gas leak of Feb 12th. No leak found, possible dead animal or sewage leak. Russ checked the vents and crawl space for critters, none found.

Stewardship: No report

Mutual Ministry: February 11th at 10:00, Next May 27th at 10:30

Women's Bible Study- Meeting each Tuesday, 10:30 Feb

- Women of Bethany will be reading a book called Taste and See by Margaret Feinberg in between gaps of Gather magazine. They will read Chapt. 1 in the second half of Feb.
- New Gather magazine has been focusing on prayer.

January Council Minutes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes– Thursday, February 12, 2026 3:00p.m.

Attendance – Present: Barbara Clausen, Beth Grambo, George Obermeyer, John Pelster, Phyllis Cavens, Susan Dollinger, Tori Gosch. Absent: Susan Shiu

Devotions and Prayer – Barb C.

Call to Order and President's Report – Phyllis Cavens called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

- Decisions made between Council Meetings: None
- Agenda Changes - None
- Devotions for Thursday, March 12, 3:00 Council Meeting - Phyllis Cavens

Secretary's Report – Beth Grambo

- Approval Council Minutes January 6 - **postponed**
- Recommendation of 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes - **approved as submitted.**

Treasurer's Report – Susan Shui

January		2026 YTD		Jan-2025		2025 YTD	
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expens- es	Income	Expens- es
\$15,141	\$13,658	\$15,141	\$13,658	\$9,610	11,767	\$9,610	\$11,767 .00
Exceeded by \$1,483		Exceeded by \$1,483		Fell short by \$3,597		Fell short by \$3,597	

- **Synod Remittance-** \$525.41
- **Emergency Fund Report - Love Overwhelming (Cold Weather Shelter) \$201.60**
- **Attendance for January Avg. 51**
- **Financial Review:** Jan. 2026- report attached - Motion made, seconded, and **approved as presented.**
- **Entech Furnace Thermostat/Wiring** - \$834.22
- **Ministry Reports** –
- **Hospitality:** Joyce Croy
- **Annual Meeting Potluck Brunch**-Jan. 28th Thank you for your wonderful work! We are grateful for all your team does! 39 members plus friends!
- Hospitality set up, put out all the food out, water, juice for the annual meeting and appreciated the clean up house.
- Plans for Easter in the works
- Will provide Soup supper for Ash Wednesday

Memorial: Joyce Croy- no report

**SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX
YOUR LEGACY: TELL YOUR STORY TO IMPACT
LIVES**

**WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 11, 25 AND APRIL 1
2:00-4:00PM**

**FELLOWSHIP HALL AT BETHANY LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

2900 PARKVIEW DR. LONGVIEW, WA



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?

Together we will facilitate a look back at each decade 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.

Sign up at 360.577.8240 at Bethany.

Upcoming Events

FISH

Sunday, March 1 Setup
Monday, March 2 Distribution

Marlene Rahn Celebration of Life

Tuesday, March 3 at 2:00 pm
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Castle Rock

We are arranging carpools from Bethany, please see sign up sheet

Council

Exec Meeting: Wednesday, March 4 at 12:15
Council Retreat: Saturday, March 7 9:00-4:00
Council Meeting: Thursday March 12 at 3:00

Financial Review

March 5 at 10:00

Daylight Savings

Spring Forward on Sunday, March 8

Your Legacy-Tell your Story

Wednesdays, March 11, 25 and April from 2:00-4:00

Please Register on Sign up sheet in narthex or speak with Ginger

Small Seeds and Sprouts

March 14 at 12:30

Music and Worship Meeting

March 22 at 11:00

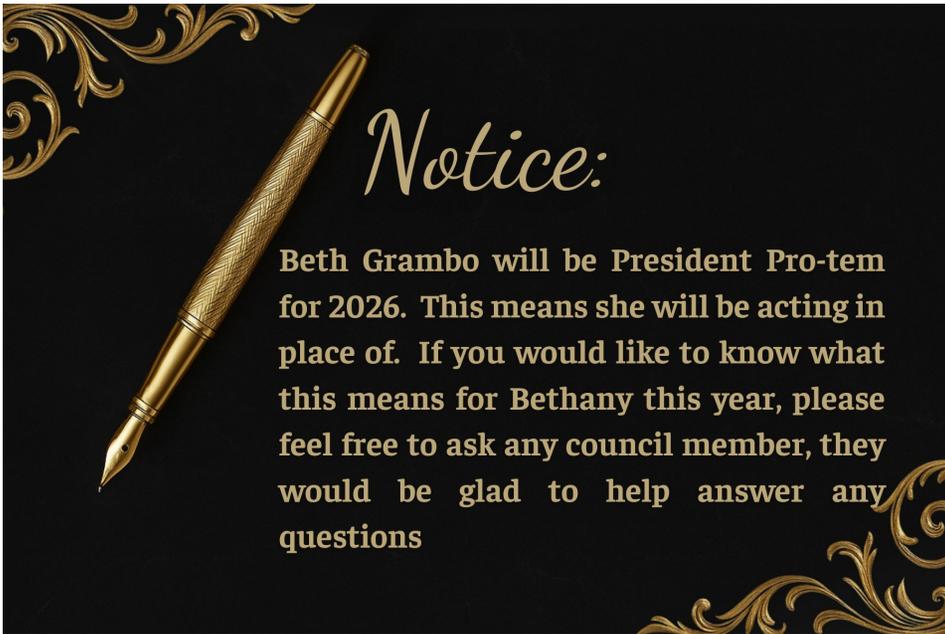
Women of Bethany Meeting

March 31 at 10:30

All women of Bethany are encouraged to come.

If you are interested in an experimental spirituality blog by Pastor Susan through Lent, please let her know.





Notice:

Beth Grambo will be President Pro-tem for 2026. This means she will be acting in place of. If you would like to know what this means for Bethany this year, please feel free to ask any council member, they would be glad to help answer any questions

To Go Bags and Rainbow Room Youth

“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!

(If you shop at Grocery Outlet, take our discount card from the narthex!)

- 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)

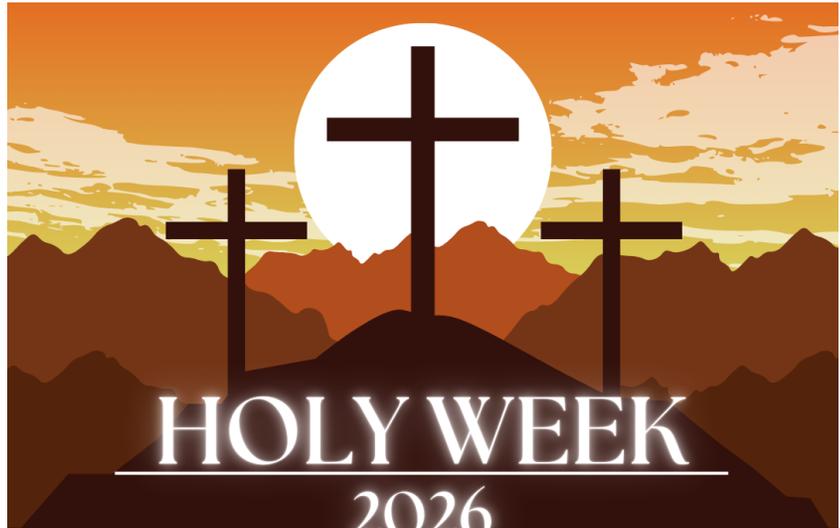
Bethany Lutheran Church

Wednesday Evening Healing Services throughout Lent

Feb. 25: Healing of Nations
March 4: Healing of Country
March 11: Healing of Creation
March 18: Laying on of Hands
March 25: To go bags & Rainbow Room



Soup Supper at 5:00 Services at 5:45



HOLY WEEK 2026

March 29 - Palm Sunday Service at 9:30 am
April 2 - Maundy Thursday service at 6:00 pm
April 3 - Good Friday Service at 6:00 pm
April 5 - Easter Sunday Service at 9:30 am

Bethany Lutheran Church
2900 Parkview Dr. Longview Wa 98632
360-577-8240

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



March 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.

Women of Bethany Meeting March 31 at 10:30

Moments at the Lake Bethany

Wednesdays @1:30

Will resume in April.

We encourage you to join
"Your Legacy: Tell Your Story to Impact Lives"
on Wednesdays, March 11, 25, April 1

more information on page 4.

Ministry Volunteers Continued

Palm Sunday, March 29 Communion

Greeter	
Ushers	Karen Langworthy/ Peggy Winston
Reader	Beth Grambo
Communion Setup	Barb Utto
Communion Assist	
Powerpoint	
Live Service	
Financial Secretary	Barb Wilson
Coffee hour	_____ / _____



For all the wall contributions



We received \$3,546 in direct contributions to repair the wall.

It is paid in full. Thank you for your generosity.



Ministry Volunteers
Sunday, March 1 Communion

Greeter
 Ushers Randy and Beth Grambo
 Reader Tom Hughes III
 Communion Setup Shelly Limpach
 Communion Assist Shelly Limpach
 Powerpoint Robin Sirigusa
 Live Service Lee Limpach
 Financial Secretary Pam van den Driessche
 Coffee hour Joyce Croy/ Karen Langworthy for Schauers

Sunday, March 8 Communion

Greeter
 Usher Harold Nunn/ Tom Hughes III
 Reader Beth Grambo
 Communion Setup
 Communion Assist
 Powerpoint
 Live Service
 Financial Secretary Barb Wilson
 Coffee hour _____/_____

Sunday, March 15 Small Seeds Sunday/ Communion

Greeter Small Seeds
 Usher Chris Engebo/ Karen Langworthy
 Reader Small Seeds
 Communion Setup Reistroffers
 Communion Assist Reistroffers
 Powerpoint Carl Winston
 Live Service
 Financial Secretary Mary Storm
 Coffee hour Beth Grambo/ Barb Clausen

Sunday, March 22 - Communion

Greeter
 Ushers Randy and Beth Grambo
 Reader Barb Clausen
 Communion Setup Nancy Skora
 Communion Assist
 Powerpoint
 Live Service
 Financial Secretary Pam van den Driessche
 Coffee hour _____/_____

SMALL SEEDS
and Sprouts

March 14 12:30-2:00



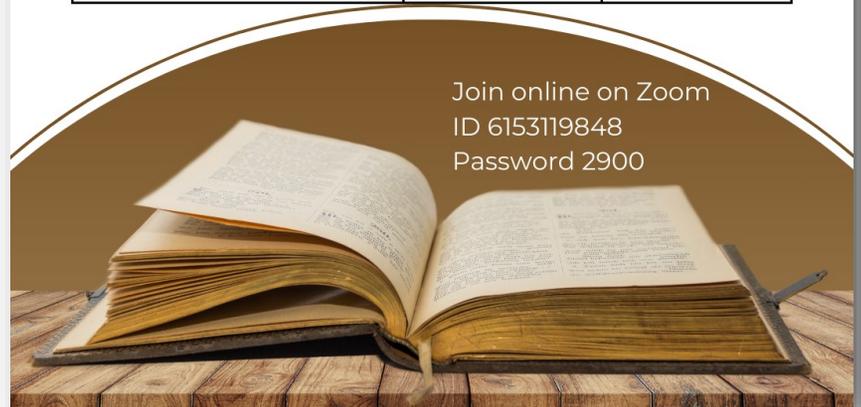
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Join Us for

BIBLE STUDY

Assignment	Friday-Online	Sunday
Ch. 5-7	Feb. 27	March 1
Ch. 5-8	March 6	March 8
Ch. 9-11	March 13	March 15
Ch. 12-14	March 20	March 22
Ch. 15-17	March 27	March 29

Join online on Zoom
 ID 6153119848
 Password 2900





Bethany Lutheran Church

MARCH 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study FISH Setup	2 8:30 FISH Dist.	3 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Marlene Rahn 6:00 Boy Scouts	4 12:15 Exec Meet 5:00 Soup Supper 5:45 Service	5 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT 1 Financial Review	6 10:00 Bible Study Online 6:00 Girl Scouts	7 9:00-4:00 Council Retreat
8 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study Daylight Savings	9	10 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	11 2:00 Tell Your Story 5:00 Soup Supper 5:45 Service	12 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT 3:00 Council Meet	13 10:00 Bible Study Online 6:00 Girl Scouts	14 12:30 Small Seeds & Sprouts 
15 Sunday Service Small Seeds/Sprouts 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	16	17 St. Patricks day 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts <i>Pr. out of Office</i>	18 5:00 Soup Supper 5:45 Service	19 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT <i>Pr Out of Office</i>	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 Music and Worship	23	24 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	25 2:00 Tell Your Story 5:00 Soup Supper 5:45 To Go bags	26 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT	27 10:00 Bible Study Sew Fun	28 Sew Fun
29 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	30	31 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women of Bethany Meeting 6:00 Boy Scouts				