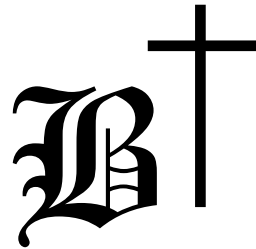


*Bethany Lutheran Church  
2900 Parkview Drive  
Longview, WA 98632*

*May 2026*

*God's Blessings to . . .*



**May 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](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**



*And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.*  
*Hebrews 10:24-25 Common English Bible*

### On Church Families

March was a “wipe out” month for me. In addition to being fairly ill, several people died that I know. In the later part of March into April, I attended four funerals. Three of which were in churches that I have been a part of in some way: as a youth director, an associate pastor, and as a member. At all three funerals I was welcomed and warmly embraced even though I haven't been around for quite some time. One of the churches I haven't been in at all for several years.

Churches are funny places. They consist of a bunch of people put together for whatever reason, bonded by a shared belief in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, but that may be the only thing people have in common. Often that is enough to figure out the rest. Sometimes, it is not.

I am thankful for all the familiar faces that I have seen this month, the hugs that were piled on filled with love and filled with our common bond of Jesus. It has taken the sting out of the four deaths. I was comforted in knowing I was surrounded by my church families, not just to embrace, but to mourn together and to celebrate lives together as sisters and brothers in Christ.

Bethany is a wonderful community. Most of you have been together as a church body for a very long time. Today, I offer you an opportunity to think about what that means in your life. We fall into our comfort circles at church as we do everywhere, but I pray you look up and know that the person sitting with you or around you is part of your church family. They are someone to pray over, pray with and to help in time of need. You are bonded as sisters and brothers in Christ, you are bonded as believers, and as members of this church, in this town, on top of this hill.

I am very thankful and appreciative of all the church families I have been a part of. I am very thankful and blessed to be a part of the Bethany church family. I pray you feel the same.

Blessings Friends. *Pastor Susan*

## Council Meeting Minutes Continued

- **Evacuation Lockdown Drill** - Barb - Completed
- **Synod Workshop Date/Topic for Vancouver** - Pr Susan will share the information with members.

### Staff Report –

- **Facility Use Reminders** - Approved: March 27 & 28, Ladies of the Lake quilting group; April 18, Bridal Shower, Joyce Croy hostess; May 21, DKG Women Educators; June 12 & 13, Bethany Rummage Sale;
- **Vacation Requests** - Ginger Garner, June 9-11 (There is a strong possibility of cancellation), September 29 - October 1. **It was moved and seconded to approve June 9-11 and Sept. 29-Oct. 1. Motion carried.**

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 4:06pm.

**Next Scheduled Meetings: Executive Committee Tuesday, May 7, 12:15 (Zoom) Council – Thursday, May 14 –3:00**

ATTENDANCE	
APRIL	TOTAL
5	66
12	48
19	48
26	32
Avg	49

Offering to date April	
2025	2026
\$43,621	\$49,600
Expenses to date April	
2025	2026
\$49,114	\$51,322

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)

- ◇ Pastor was sick and home-bound March 17-29, but was able to do some work from home, including some phone calls, created services, bulletins and PowerPoints as usual, posted on FB, and was in contact with the Harris family. She thanks Ginger for keeping her informed as needed during this time of illness, and all the volunteers that stepped up to keep the church functioning smoothly. Pastor is very thankful to Pastor Bob Ross for taking the lead on the Jeff Harris service.
- ◇ Barb Bley service will be April 25 at 1 p.m. at Bethany.

**Unfinished Business:**

- **Lower Columbia Lutheran Conference** - Collected supplies for Rainbow Cart at library and Stella was delivered after Easter. Pastor coordinating next meeting with Pastor Lydia from Stella.
- **Willet Stained Glass Studios Free Inspection** - Inspection occurred on March 26 - Report has been delivered and reviewed by council. Nothing urgent is needed.
- **Sound System company** - New microphones, a monitor speaker, and cords will need to be purchased for the praise team. Current equipment is not compatible with the new system. Worship and Music will explore replacement availability and costs, as their budget permits.
- **Your Legacy** workshop has been well attended, with approximately 12 people attending and joined on April 1 and 8. Several copies of *Telling Your Story* are available for members in the narthex.
- **Review of Council Retreat goals and brainstorming** - tabled until next month
- **Website Committee Meeting** - First meeting is April 14 as 2:30 pm

**New Business:**

- **Columbia Heights Road Improvement Open House, April 14 from 4-7 p.m., Longview City Hall.**
- Barb Clausen will attend for Bethany and report at the next meeting.
- **Chamber of Commerce** - Review information from Chamber of Commerce to determine best use of free services. (We were included in a February newsletter that they sent out!)
- **TDN-Use of Community Events** for all special services, workshops, etc. but prefer just a 3-4 sentence line. Also submit to FM 100.7 KLOG will put on their free community events calendar
- **Volunteer opportunities** from LifeWorks – Pastor will communicate with them regarding help with mowing and window.
- **Reimburse Pam van den Driessche** for decorations purchased for fellowship hall - \$80 - **Moved and seconded, to approve the payment of \$80. Motion carried.**
- **Annual Review of Staff--Pr.** Susan will be conducting a collaborative annual review with two staff with input from the council, a contract review, & will report the results at May 14 council meeting;

# Bethany's Corner



Shelly Limpach is our prayer chain contact. You may contact her with your prayer concerns through email at [BethanyPrayer247@gmail.com](mailto:BethanyPrayer247@gmail.com). If you have an urgent prayer request, please call the church office.

## Continued Prayers & Healing

June White	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



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

04	Norma Oyloe	25	Gunars Arnits
05	Tom Hughes	29	Tim Gosch
14	Kelly Engebo		

### ANNIVERSARIES

07	Gil & Audrey Schauer
12	Dave & Nancy Skora
24	Larry & Evelyn Jackson
28	Tim & Tori Gosch
31	Randy & Beth Grambo

### **May Emergency Fund: Habitat for Humanity**

This month, our Second Mile Giving is going toward Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity is an amazing global nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that everyone has a safe and decent place to call home. Operating in all 50 states and in approximately 70 countries worldwide, Habitat's beautiful vision is simple: a world where everyone has a place to belong. They work to make that vision a reality by building strength, stability, and self-reliance alongside families who need affordable housing. Habitat homeowners are active participants in the process — working hand in hand with volunteers to help build their own homes and paying an affordable mortgage.

Right here in our own community, Habitat operates a wonderful store that gives building materials and goods a second life by reselling them in good condition. The profits from this store go directly toward funding local builds for families in need — how cool is that?

If you'd like to contribute, simply note it in the memo line of your check. Every gift makes a difference!

### **Ministry of the Month: Memorial Committee**

Our Memorial Committee lovingly honors the memory of our friends and fellow members who have passed. Donations made to this fund are carefully managed by the committee, with contributions thoughtfully directed toward various church projects in honor of your loved one. Over the years, these generous gifts have helped support our facility, beautify our space, fulfill altar needs, and provide relief during times of emergency.

When a donation is made, the grieving family receives a heartfelt notification, and each donor is sent a personal thank you in appreciation of their kindness and generosity.

A warm thank you to our dedicated committee: Joyce Croy, Chair, and members Gail Obermeyer and Karen Langworthy!

### • **Worship/Music:**

- ◇ Coming up: Music and Worship meeting date TBD
- ◇ Lay-led on April 19 with Beth Grambo delivering message.
- **Youth/Service:** Barb Clausen
- ◇ Small Seeds will meet April 11. The March 15 meeting was cancelled due to landslide blocking I-5. Summer Experience planning starts.
- ◇ Graduation celebration will be scheduled.
- ◇ Rainbow Cart – Collections ended and Stella will pick up items after Easter
- ◇ Fish: 66 people were served on March 2. Next distribution is May 15 (Set up May 14)
- ◇ Homeless bags are in the narthex for your car! Please take several!
- **Duct Tape Crew:** Pastor Susan Dollinger
- ◇ Spring clean-up on May 2, 9-12 *Please bring your friends, neighbor kids, etc.* We need help with the ladder to do Fellowship Hall windows outside!
- ◇ Heat is working.
- ◇ Cleaned out the nursery.
- ◇ Helped set up for Jeff Harris' funeral.
- ◇ Ring doorbell system is working well, thanks to Justin Garner for the donation of spare parts.
- ◇ Two people going to be missing Thursdays—please consider volunteering to help with anything!

### • **Stewardship:** No report

• **Mutual Ministry:** Next meeting date May 27, 2026 at 10:30 am.

### • **Education:**

- ◇ Moments at the Lake cancelled during Lent, will resume late April
- ◇ Bible Study-Bible study on Matthew continues through April
- ◇ Confirmation of youth May 24 tentative

### • **Women's Bible Study:**

- ◇ *Gather* magazine is focusing on the names of God.
- ◇ Bible Study continues with the book *Taste and See* when *Gather* is not available

### • **Women of Bethany**

- ◇ Women of Bethany met on March 31. Barb will put the report in the newsletter. The spokesperson is Karen Langworthy.

### • **Minister's Report:** Pastor Susan

- ◇ Work on managing time/tasks - blocking out personal time and project preparation time to reduce stress with self & team. Report-
- ◇ Strengthen the spiritual growth of all guided by their faith, God's promises, & everyone's intimate walk with Jesus. Report-while in Tacoma Pastor visited Kathy Newton and brought her communion.

# April Council Minutes

## Bethany Lutheran Church Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 9, 2026 3:00 p.m.

**Attendance – Present:** Susan Dollinger, Phyllis Cavens, Barbara Clausen, Beth Grambo, Tori Gosch,

Susan Shiu, George Obermeyer, John Pelster, Beth Grambo **Absent:** None

**Devotions and Prayer** – Barb Clausen

**Call to Order and President's Report** – Barb Clausen called the meeting to order at 3:09pm.

- Decisions made between Council Meetings: Approve the payment of Pr. Ross for funeral supply \$200.
- Agenda Changes: None
- Devotions for Thursday, May 14, 3:00 Council Meeting: John Pelster

**Secretary's Report:** John Pelster

- Approval of March 12 Council Minutes - **File as submitted**

**Treasurer's Report:** Susan Shui **ACTION**

March		2026 YTD		March 2025		2025 YTD	
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
\$12,372	\$12,569	\$38,626	\$39,364	\$7,160	\$13,060	\$26,999	\$37,682
Fell Short by \$197		Exceeded by \$738		Exceeded by \$12,500		Exceeded by \$5,974	

- **Synod Remittance-** \$430.92
- **Emergency Fund Report** - \$228.00 to Family Promise, \$118.00 to ELCA World Hunger Lent ER
- **Attendance for March** - 47
- **Financial Review:** The committee meeting was postponed.
- **Sound System** - \$11,649.80 raised, \$23,349 quote
- **CD research report – Susan** It was moved, seconded and approved to get a 6 month \$20,000 Certificate of Deposit at 3.25% interest rate at Red Canoe.
- **Required Minimum Distributions** - 72+ Reminder for May Newsletter will be done.

### Ministry Reports:

- **Hospitality:** Joyce Croy
- ◇ Continental breakfast planned for Easter; thank you for the pizza for funeral set up! Thank you to Karen Langworthy for bleaching cups, thanks to Dan Lane, Lee Limpach, & Aidan for helping!
- ◇ Mother's Day May 10 Plan - Men will be cooking (George, John, & Chris in charge)
- ◇ Printed instructions for the kitchen have been updated.
- **Memorial:** Joyce Croy- no report

## Columbia Heights Road Closure Plans

There will be a \$16 million road closure starting in January-February, 2027 and will last approximately one year. Phase I will affect Bethany Lutheran worshippers the most. We will keep you informed of the start date and changes as they occur as we have signed up with the construction company to get updates.

Phase I: The road from Fisher Lane (by the railroad tracks) up to the formerly improved section will be totally closed for the twelve-month period. You will be able to use Fisher Lane to SR411 and go up Nevada Drive, I-5 and back to Nevada Drive, or from the west on Pacific, etc. The road will be totally closed from Lynnwood and Lower Maplewood, and then one-lane traffic with a flagger from Lower Maplewood Drive to Cascade Drive if you live in that portion. Upper Maplewood Drive will be open to local traffic. Sidewalks will be added!

Phase II: This closure will be approximately five months and the road will be closed between Lower Maplewood & Cascade Drive to local traffic only. Upper Maplewood intersection closed, and one-lane traffic from Lower Maplewood to Lynnwood. Same detour as above.

Phase III: Final three months, flaggers and signals for the Lynnwood intersection and some detour remaining in place until finished.

Services: Utilities will not be interrupted unless you live directly impacted on Col Hts Rd. and with advance notice. (Replacing water, sewer meters, public right of way replace sewers—all with advance notice.) Mail will continue—some will have temporary mailboxes. Garbage/recycling regular Fridays, contractor will assist those directly affected.

Stay informed if this directly affects you by getting emails from the Longview Engineer Ivona Kininmonth at [ivo-nak@ci.longview.wa.us](mailto:ivonak@ci.longview.wa.us) 360.442.5208

# Upcoming Events

## Council

Exec Meeting: Wednesday, May 8 at 12:15  
Council Meeting: Thursday, May 14 at 3:00

## Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, May 14 at 5:00 *Everyone Welcome*

## Small Seeds and Sprouts

May 9 at 12:30

## Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

*Provided by the Men of Bethany*

May 10 following Service

## FISH

Thursday, May 14 9:00 am—Setup  
Friday, May 15th 8:30 am—Distribution

## Spring Clean up Day

Saturday, May 16 9:00 am—12:00 pm

## Mutual Ministry

May 27 at 10:30



Come celebrate with our church family

## CONFIRMATION OF EMILY ENGEBØ GABRIEL PELSTER JONAH PELSTER

*Wear Red*

May 24th • 9:30 am

During our Sunday service  
Light dessert to follow

## HOW CAN YOU HELP BETHANY IF YOU ARE OVER 72 YEARS OLD?

What is a “required minimum distribution” (RMD), and why should I care about it?

An RMD is the smallest amount you must withdraw from your tax-deferred retirement accounts every year after a certain age. At some point in your life, you may have put money into tax-deferred retirement accounts, such as Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and 401(k) workplace retirement accounts. The key word here is “tax-deferred.” You postponed taxes on your contributions and earnings; however, if you directly have it go to the church and not come to you, you can avoid the taxes!

How Do You Do This? The amount changes each year, according to your age. Start by calculating how much you had in all your tax-deferred accounts as of December 31 of the previous year. Next, find your age on the IRS uniform lifetime table and the corresponding “distribution period.” The distribution period is an estimate of how many years you’ll be taking RMDs. If you’re 73, for example, the distribution period is 24.7 years, based on your life expectancy. Then divide your balance by the distribution period. Let’s say you have a combined \$100,000 in your tax-deferred retirement accounts: \$100,000 divided by 24.7 is \$4,049 — which is the amount you must withdraw. If you are in the 25 percent combined state and local tax bracket, you’ll owe \$1,012 in taxes on your RMD.

Where Can I Take It From? You can take your RMD out of one account, or take bits from each one, so long as you withdraw the required minimum.

How Can I Help My Church? Have your investment person do a direct transfer to Bethany Lutheran Church, but make sure they put YOUR name on the paperwork. Then notify one of the Financial Secretaries so they can watch for it to arrive. This prevents you from having to pay taxes on the withdrawal.

Modified from the AARP website

## **ATTN: GROCERY OUTLET SHOPPERS**

Be sure to mention Bethany Lutheran Church  
at check out or we have scan cards available in the narthex table,  
they will donate 5% of your purchase to our church.



# SYNOD EDUCATIONAL GATHERINGS

## THEME

STEWARDSHIP: FUNDING MINISTRY FOR TODAY AND THE FUTURE



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Grace Pomroy**  
Luther Seminary  
Author of "Funding Forward"

### WHAT YOU WILL EXPERIENCE

- Worship
- Keynote Speaker
- Breakout sessions include:
  - Grant Writing
  - Bible Study
  - Land Use Discernment
  - Stewardship Models
  - AND MORE!
- Lunch

**MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> – MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
VANCOUVER, WA**

**JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup> – CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LAKEWOOD, WA**

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SWWA SYNOD.

COST: \$50 PER PERSON

**If you would like to register for this gathering, please let Ginger know and we will forward the registration email.**

## WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?



In the ELCA, confirmation is a ministry rooted in Baptism, designed to help young people and all members grow in faith, deepen their trust in God's promises, and equip them for lives of discipleship and service. Confirmation is a church practice that affirms the gifts of Baptism and encourages lifelong learning and participation in the Christian community. Confirmation is seen as an affirmation of Baptism, not its completion, and involves the whole congregation in nurturing faith through worship, study, and caring relationships. This is a special time in one's life of faith. Please pray for our confirmands as they prepare.

## 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



**May 5, 12, 19, 26**

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, May 31 Sunday Service/Communion

Greeter	
Ushers	
Reader	
Communion Setup	
Communion Assist	
Powerpoint	
Live Service	
Financial Secretary	Barb Wilson
Coffee hour	Phyllis Cavens

## BIG CHANGES COMING OUR WAY



We are also changing the formatting of our monthly newsletter due to discontinuation of our current program through Microsoft.

If you haven't opened up the weekly announcement emails in awhile, we encourage you to see what changes have been made to make it easier to see what up and coming events are happening.

## Ministry Volunteers

### Sunday, May 3 Sunday Service/Communion

Greeter	
Ushers	Peggy Winston
Reader	Russ Gilchrist
Communion Setup	Nancy Skora
Communion Assist	Nancy Skora
Powerpoint	Robin Siragusa
Live Service	_____
Financial Secretary	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee hour	Robin Siragusa/ Nancy Skora

### Sunday, May 10 Small Seeds Sunday/ Communion

Greeter	Small Seeds
Usher	_____ / _____
Reader	Small Seeds
Communion Setup	Pat Reistroffer
Communion Assist	Pat Reistroffer
Powerpoint	Carol Thompson
Live Service	_____
Financial Secretary	Barb Wilson
Coffee hour	Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

### Sunday, May 17 Sunday Service/Communion

Greeter	_____
Usher	Pat Reistroffer/ Bob Reistroffer
Reader	_____
Communion Setup	Shelly Limpach
Communion Assist	Shelly Limpach
Powerpoint	Lee Limpach
Live Service	
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm
Coffee hour	Bob and Pat Reistroffer

### Sunday, May 24 - Sunday Service/Communion

Greeter	_____
Ushers	_____ / _____
Reader	_____
Communion Setup	Nancy Skora
Communion Assist	Nancy Skora
Powerpoint	_____
Live Service	Lee Limpach
Financial Secretary	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee hour	Hospitality

# SMALL SEEDS and Sprouts



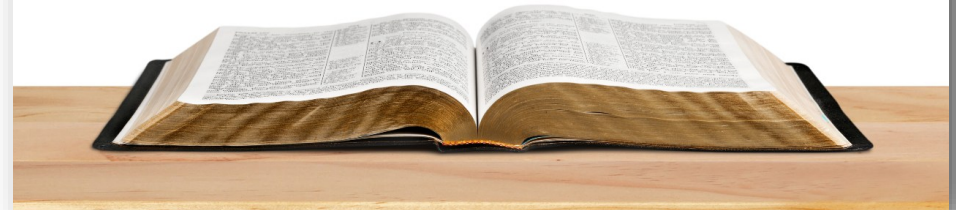
May 9 from 12:30-2:00  
final gathering for the school year

## BIBLE STUDY

On the Book of Matthew

Continues

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



# FISH

MAY 14 SETUP

MAY 15 DISTRIBUTE



*Peanut Butter, Chili, Jam*  
are needed



# Bethany Lutheran Church

## MAY 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
<b>3</b> Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	<b>6</b> <b>12:15 Exec Meeting</b> 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	<b>7</b> 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT	<b>8</b> <b>10:00 Bible Study Online</b> Sew Fun	<b>9</b> <b>12:30 Small Seeds &amp; Sprouts</b> Sew Fun 
Bishop Convocation - Pastor out of office						
<b>10</b> Sunday Service Small Seeds Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Breakfast <b>11:15 Bible Study</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	<b>13</b> 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	<b>14</b> <b>9:00 FISH Setup</b> 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT <b>3:00 Council Meet</b> <b>5:00 Quarterly Meet</b>	<b>15</b> <b>10:00 Bible Study Online</b> <b>8:30 FISH Dist.</b>	<b>16</b> <b>9:00-12:00 Bethany Spring Clean up</b>
<b>17</b> Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	<b>20</b> 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	<b>21</b> 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT <i>3:00 DKG FH</i>	<b>22</b> <b>10:00 Bible Study Online</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Confirmation 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	<b>25</b> Memorial Day 	<b>26</b> 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> <b>10:30 Mutual Ministry</b> 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	<b>28</b> 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT	<b>29</b> <b>10:00 Bible Study Online</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Synod Educational Gathering Vancouver</b>
<b>31</b> Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour					6:00 Girl Scouts	

*Mother's Day*

**Wear Red**