

October 2026

NEWSLETTER

Bethanylongview.org

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ministry Team

Pastor Susan Dollinger : pastor@bethanylongview.org

Church Musician Dorothy McMillan

Administrative Assistant Ginger Garner: secretary@bethanylongview.org



OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday-Thursday
9:30-3:00

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Services 9:30
Coffee Hour 10:30



28 Come to me all of you who are tired. You are like people who have worked for a long time. You are like people who have carried heavy things. Come to me. If you do that, you will find a place to rest. 29 Do what I teach you to do. Listen to my message and learn from me what is true. I am very kind and I do not make myself important. I will help you. Then you will have peace in your mind. 30 I will not tell you to do things that are too difficult. I will not tell you to carry anything that is too heavy for you.'

Matthew 11:28-30 (Easy English Bible Version).

Dear Bethany, I read through many versions of this particular verse during this summer. It was a very relaxing exercise that spanned over a few days. The term “Let go and Let God” is not in the Bible but this verse seems fairly close to that concept. Give God your burdens and take the yoke he has to offer. A yoke is a contraption that put two animals together to steer a wagon or pull a load. Jesus was basically telling the people to watch out for the yoke of the pharisees which was heavy burdened with laws and rituals and to take up the yoke of Christ which held freedom and saving power.

When animals are yoked together, it takes less pressure off of one animal to carry the load. Before the crucifixion, a man named Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross. So even Jesus had help when he needed.

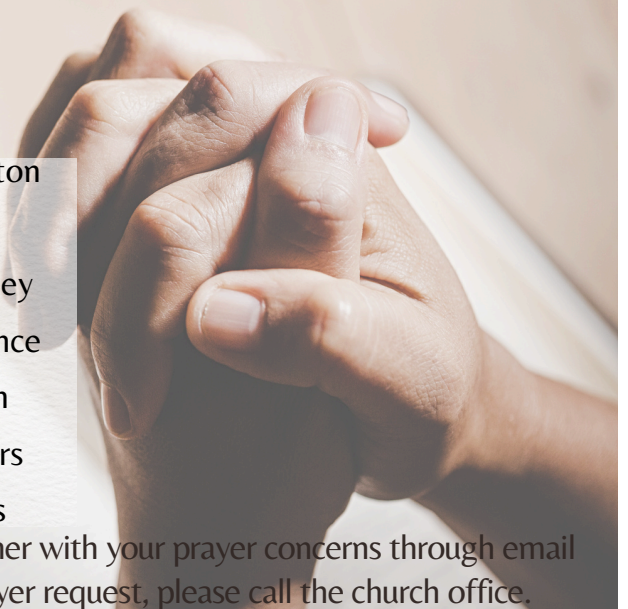
We don't need to bear the weight of the world alone. We can give our burdens to Jesus, yoking ourselves to Christ is also a way of surrendering; saying, “I can't do it all on my own, Lord, I am ready to take your yoke for I know within it you will guide my steps and shoulder the weight of my burdens. I am yours.”

In peace, Pastor Susan

Prayer Requests

Deone Munn	Susan Shiu	Peggy Winston
Carol Lane	Karen Langworthy	June White
Barb Clausen	Judy Bailey	John Mullaney
Barbara Price	Gail Obermeyer	Jennifer Nance
Custer family	Gilchrist family	Bob Baldwin
Krista & John Croy	Thibodeau family	The Milhisers
Takko family	David & Dana Hughes	The Newtons

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.



Emergency Fund August: Columbia Heights and Lexington Thanksgiving Food Boxes

In order not to overload us for the holidays, the Youth & Service Committee is asking you to consider a financial donation for food boxes for our two partner schools this month. This provides families in need some food for their children during the extra days and the Thanksgiving holiday long weekend when free/reduced lunch is not available. (Then in November we will collect for the Christmas vacation as in December we do the angel tree for a few school & Family Promise families.) Please mark you Emergency offering "ER" in the memo or drop it in the gold offering plate so marked. Thank you for being a blessing to others and hearing God's call.

Usher Refresher Training

Sunday, Oct. 18

To help us all keep the important safety duties of the usher role fresh in our minds, we will have a very short usher meeting before coffee hour on Sunday, Oct. 18 right after the service. Please move in the pews to the front of the sanctuary for a ten-minute refresher. Our purpose is quickly recall the safety duties to protect our congregation while they worship. A handout will be provided. If you cannot attend, please contact Barb Clausen. This is important not only to maintain our security but also a requirement of our church insurance. Thank you!

Reformation Sunday

Trinity Lutheran Church

October 25th at 10:00

The pickup choir meets at 8:30 that morning. Following services there will be a potluck, please bring a dish to share. Wear Red for Reformation!

Ministry of the month: Pastor Appreciation

THANK YOUR PASTOR!

October is pastor appreciation month so if you want to be a part of the collection, please mark your special offering "Pastor Appreciation" and the council will be treating pastor to a surprise! Also, we will have a basket with a ribbon on it in the narthex to present to her the weekend of Oct. 18-19. A card with a personal note would mean so much to her and her family. She gives so much time and energy caring for our members and families! (Blank cards are available in the Faith Room in a file folder if you forget your own.)

UPCOMING Events

Pet Blessing

Sunday, October 4

Council Meetings

October 7 @ 12:00 Executive Meeting (Zoom)

October 21 @ 3:00 Council Meeting

Small Seeds and Sprouts/ Youth Bible Study

October 10

10:00 Small Seeds 11:00 Youth Bible 12:30
Sprouts

Usher Training

October 18 @ 11:15

Mutual Ministry

October 21 at 10:00

Music and Worship

October 22 @ 3:00

Reformation at Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday, October 25th at 10:00

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 1

Daylight Savings

Sunday, November 1

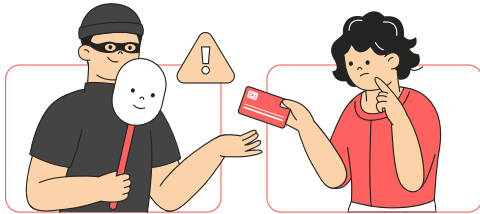


Pet BLESSING

Sunday, October 4

We welcome you to bring your well-behaved pets to our annual pet blessing held in the fellowship hall. Please contain any Creepy Crawly, scaled and feathered friends for this event. Pictures of non-travelling companions can be brought in to be blessed as well.

CYBER SECURITY



Phishing Emails

We have received a number of emails that look like they are coming from members of our church and Pastor Susan. With all emails asking for assistance or links, check the senders email address and see if it lines up with what you know. Links from these false people can send you to malicious sites that can steal your information or download malware on your computer. One way of curbing this is to not respond to that email, but to start a new email with the contact information that you know is correct.

We thank you!

Thank you to all who brought pies – savory and sweet to the pie social. It made for a yummy day.

Protecting Our God's Church

Please make sure the kitchen door remains locked except when loading/unloading supplies or welcoming people. The last person remaining in the building should make sure all doors are locked, kitchen doors shut, lights are off, and the security system is set. Work together to protect God's house just as you do your own home. Thank you! Please see Ginger if you do not know how to set the alarm



Bible Study Schedule

Genesis 4:1-26, 5:21- 24

October 2 and 4

Genesis 5:28-32, Ch. 6-8

October 9 and 11

Genesis Ch 9 (ch.10), 11:1-9, (11) 11:26-32

October 16 and 18

No Study during Reformation

October 23 and 25

Genesis 12, Genesis 20:1-14

October 30 and November 1

Genesis 13:8-18, 14:8-24, 18:20-33, 19:1-29; 30-38 *

November 6 and 8

Genesis 15-17

November 13 and 15

Opportunities to Gather & Learn

Women's Bible Study Meets Every Tuesday at 10:30



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

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

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.

DUCT TAPE



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

BIBLE STUDY



Online Fridays @ 10:00 am
in person Sundays @ 11:15 am
Starting back in September

SMALL SEEDS and Sprouts



Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month during the school year.
Please see details on page 5

CELEBRATE

CELEBRATE

CELEBRATE

01 Tony Guerra

05 Kathy Newton

07 Tori Gosch

12 Dana Hughes

19 Patrick Murphy

20 Chris Engebo

23 Peggy Winston

31 Martha Sharp



ALL SAINTS' DAY

Please contact Ginger with the name and photo of your loved one that you would like remembered on this day. If you have submitted a person in the past, check to see that we have a photo

NOVEMBER 1ST

Shopping List

Soup
Canned Veggies
Tomato Sauce
Mac & Cheese
Top Ramen
Canned Beans
Shampoo



FISH: November 6

Bible Study

Scoundrals... I mean founders of our faith. A walkthrough of the characters of Genesis

Continuing through October

Fridays online at 10:00

Sundays^h in person at 11:15

Schedule on page 3

Welcome to our new children and youth programs!

We meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month. We are excited to begin this new chapter with the children and youth.

We will begin in October and carry on through May of next year.



Small Seeds - Littles
10:00 - 10:45 am

Youth Bible Study
11:00 - 12:30 pm

Sprouts - Confirmation
12:30 - 1:30 pm

Reformation Sunday



October 25th at 10:00
Trintiy Lutheran Church
2021 Washington Way
Potluck to follow

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS



October 4

October 11

October 18

Reformation
Trinity

Greeter

Karen Langworthy

Youth

Phyllis Cavens

Ushers

Harold Nunn

Reader

Youth

Tom Hughes III

Communion
Setup

Nancy Skora

Bob Reistroffer

Communion
Assist

Nancy Skora

Pat Reistroffer

Powerpoint

Live Service

Financial
Secretary

Barb Wilson

Mary Storm

Pam van den Driessche

Barb Wilson

Coffee Hour

Phyllis Cavens
Barb Clausen

Volunteer
Coordinator

Barb Clausen

Phyllis Cavens

ATTENDANCE	
Sept	TOTAL
6	48
13	39
20	33
27	
AVG	

Offering to date September 9/23/26	
2025	2026
\$111,840	\$130,393
Expenses to date September 9/23/26	
2025	2026
\$132,578	\$123,410

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)

Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes– Thursday, September 10, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

Attendance -Beth Grambo, Susan Shiu, Tori Gosch, Phyllis Cavens, Pr. Susan Dollinger, George Obermeyer, & Barb Clausen

Devotions and Prayer – Barb Clausen

Call to Order and President's Report – Beth Grambo called the meeting to order at 3:12pm

- **Decisions made between council meetings:** None

Agenda Changes- Added CD decision and Council date change;

- Devotions for October 15-Beth Grambo

Secretary's Report – John Pelster

- August 13, 2026 minutes filed as edited.

Treasurer's Report – Susan Shui

Synod Remittance August \$1230.26 (*Synod contributions inflated by members annual contributions*)

Emergency Fund Report- Venezuela Earthquake/ CO Wildfire 546.00 WA Wildfire \$250

Split due to member designations

Attendance for Averages: August 44

August 2026		2026 YTD		August 2025		2025 YTD	
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
\$35,150	\$19,034	\$123,949	\$111,043	\$15,416	\$18,674	\$90,891	\$104,949
Exceeded by \$16,116		Exceeded by \$12,906		Fell Short by \$3,258		Fell Short by \$14,078	

Note: Some members have given their RMD for the year, which makes the income inflated.

CD \$20,000 Emergency Matures Oct. 15-The best rate now will be 3.15% for 6 months. Current balance is \$20,249. **It was moved and seconded to keep the interest in the total and re-invest. Motion carried.**

Ministry Reports –

- **Hospitality:** Pie Social on Rally Day, Sept. 13; Bring a pie to share!
- **Memorial:** No report
- **Worship/Music:**
 - o Beth Grambo will preach at the service on October 18. Beth Grambo. Next lay-lead is Nov. 29th.
 - o Rally Day is Sept. 13.
 - o Pet Blessing on October 4.
 - o Reformation service will be at Gloria Dei this year.
 - o Committee will set a meeting date for latter September.
- **Youth/Service:**
 - o The committee will meet September 30 at 10:30. All are welcome!
 - o Small Seeds starts on October 10
- **Duct Tape Crew:** Pastor Susan Dollinger, George Obermeyer;
 - o Cancel Duct Tape on September 17;
- **Stewardship:**
 - o Met on September 9, with Nancy Skora, Phyllis Cavens, Renee Pelster, and Pastor in attendance.
Renee regretfully will not be continuing on the committee, and Beth will replace her.
- **Mutual Ministry:** The committee will meet on October 21 at 10 a.m.
- **Women's Bible Study-**Study will commence on September 15. The new Gather magazine has been delivered.
- **Women of Bethany:** The next meeting is September 29.

- **Education-**

- o The next Bible Study will be on the book of Genesis, titled “The Scoundrels...I mean the Founders...of our Faith.” The study will meet on-line on September 18 at 10 a.m., and on Sunday September 20.

- **Minister’s Report:** Pastor Susan

- o Pastor took the week of August 25-27, which was good for stress levels
- o Pastor Lydia from Stella has resigned effective August 31, and Pastor Craig from Trinity has retired effective September 30. St. Paul in Castle Rock is in the process of calling a pastor from Vancouver. Pastor Susan and Pastor Denise (from Gloria Dei) are the remaining ELCA pastors in the area.
- o Lower Columbia Lutherans will continue to meet, but no activities or dates have been set at this time.
- o Synod send all churches a stewardship letter asking us to prayerfully consider increasing our pledge when we do or budget.

- **Goal/Action Plan Progress Report:** Summer surge numbers are noted—*some people did not sign in!*

Campfire & S’Mores-7 members, 2 guests; Film Festival-18 members, 1 guest

Oyster Shell Art-7 members, 1 guest; Hymns & Sundaes-9 members, 5 guests

Scams & Hacking-9 members, 6 guest; Portugal Pilgrimage- 10 members, 21 guests

Total Numbers: 64 members; 35 guests Goal purposes were fellowship and outreach!

Unfinished Business:

- **Clipboard Volunteer Sign Ups**-Everyone please work on getting this done!
- **Water Department Bill ongoing saga**—Ginger continues to work diligently with the water department to get the issue resolved.
- **Usher Training**-there will be an usher training on October 18. Mandatory to refresh for insurance purposes!

New Business:

- **Building Security and Safety**-building left unlocked without security system set—please be careful! Call for help if needed!
- **Protocols for facility usage**- Barb will revised the policy as per discussion.
- **Council date change-Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 3:00** instead of the week earlier;

Staff Report –

- **Facility Use Approval**- Request from DKG December 17
- **Out of Offices Requests** (previously approved, information only)-
September 22-23-Pastor’s vacation;
Sept. 24-5-Pastor’s Continuing Ed (Leaders Away through First Christian Church)

Adjournment-Adjourned at 4:05.

October is Pastor appreciation month!

Next Scheduled Meetings: Executive Committee Wednesday, October 7 noon; Council – Wednesday, October 21, 3:00 pm;

OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 Sunday Service Pet Blessing 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	5	6 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	7 12:00 Exec Meeting 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	8 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT Ginger out of office	9 6:00 Girl Scouts 10:00 Bible Study	10 10:00 Small Seeds 11:00 Youth Bible 12:30 Sprouts WELCA Conv. 
11 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	12	13 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	14 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	15 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT 3:00 Council Meet	16 10:00 Bible Study	17
18 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour Usher Training 11:15 Bible Study	19	20 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	21 10:00 Mutual Ministry 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	22 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT 3:00 Music & Worship	23 6:00 Girl Scouts	24
25 Reformation 10:00 Trinity Lutheran Church 	26	27 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	28 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	29 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT	30 10:00 Bible Study	31

GOD'S BLESSINGS TO

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