

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ministry Team

Pastor Susan Dollinger : pastor@bethanylongview.org

Church Musician Dorothy McMillan

Administrative Assistant Ginger Garner: secretary@bethanylongview.org



2900 Parkview Dr. Longview, WA 98632

360-577-8240

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday-Thursday
9:30-3:00

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Services 9:30
Coffee Hour 10:30



I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians: 4:1-3

Dear Bethany,

In the Bible, Biblical peace means wholeness. When Jesus says, "Peace be with you," he is saying, Peace be on your body, mind and spirit, in your relationships, in your finances etc. Wherever there is brokenness, may there be restoration.

When we think of our lives in general, where do you see the need for peace. Perhaps that is in a relationship. Maybe it isn't even in your home but in family relationships such as your daughter having some issues with their children. Whatever impacts you, we ask for peace.

We pray for peace in the world as in the ceasing of war, but also peace and wholeness in communities, neighborhood, or church. So we are praying for everyone to be fed, housed, cared for, and loved. We also hope for peace in your body, for a sense of healing to be upon you, etc.

We live in a broken world, and there are a lot of things that can make things seem more difficult and more challenging than they have to be. Is there any place in your life that you need the peace of Christ, a place of wholeness instead of brokenness?

Is there any place in your life where you can bring peace into a situation that is broken?

Here are some ways that can bring peace:

Forgiving someone

Saying I am sorry

Feeding someone who is hungry

Helping a neighbor

Adopting an abandoned pet

Repaying a loan

Repairing something that was broken

Replacing something that was lost

There are more, but you get the idea. I pray that as we turn to a new season, that you have the peace of Christ within you and in your life. Peace be with you.

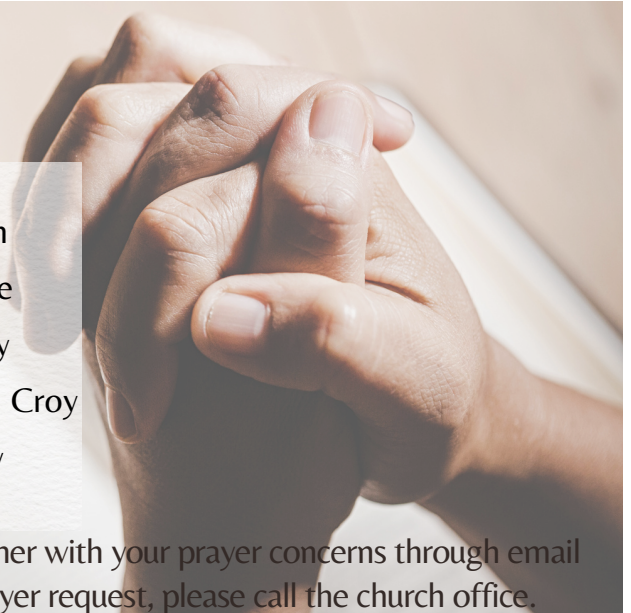
In peace, Pastor Susan

Prayer Requests

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: ELCA Disaster relief: WA Wildfires

Your gifts make it possible for this church to provide fast and effective support to communities in need, whenever and wherever a disaster may strike. You may choose to designate your gift to a specific disaster or give where the need is greatest; make your choice known at the time of your donation. If you decide to give to a specific disaster, your gift will be used 100 percent for that disaster, unless more funds are received than are needed to fully fund a specific disaster response. If this happens, your gift will be used to address a similar effort. Your gifts make it possible for this church to provide fast and effective support to communities in need, whenever and wherever a disaster may strike. Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. In just 14 days, we've connected with partners and communities just beginning their journeys to recover from storms, flooding, wildfires and earthquakes. Those partners are spread across Colorado, Hawai'i, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin; across Colombia, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico and Venezuela.

Please note Disaster Relief in the memo



Thank you to John Pelster and Ginger Garner, and Beth Grambo for all your work on our upcoming brand new website!

Ministry of the month: Worship and Music

Thank you to our Music and Worship Committee, which plans lay-led services and special services and collaborates with Pastor Susan. Let's honor them this month with special notes and thanks for their hard work! Dorothy McMillan, George Oberymeyer, Russ Gilchrist, June White, Renee Pelster, Chris Cotten, and Pastor Susan Dollinger.

Thank you to Justin Garner for helping to rearrange our Ring cameras and lights for best visibility into our parking lots and hidden corners.



UPCOMING Events

Women's Bible Study: Welcome Back!

Tuesday, September 15 at 10:30

Council Meetings

September 2 @ 12:00 Executive Meeting (Zoom)
September 10 @ 3:00 Council Meeting

Rally Day Service- Pie Social Potluck

September 13

FISH

Setup August 13 @ 11:15
Distribution August 14th at 8:30

Ladies of the Lake Quilters Guild

September 17-19th - There will be no Duct Tape

Bible Study Begins: The Scoundrels... I mean Founders of our faith. A walkthrough of the Characters of Genesis

Friday, September 18th online at 10:00
Sunday, September 20th in person at 11:15

Women of Bethany Meeting: *All women welcome*

Tuesday, September 29 at 10:30

Your Mutual Ministry Committee

Matthew 18: 15 *"If another member of the church[b] sins against you,[c] go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.[d]* 16 *But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.*

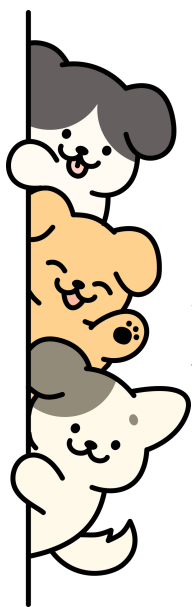
The Mutual Ministry committee is a committee of Bethany that meets quarterly or when needed to support our Pastor Susan and to pray for members. When asked or there is a need, we meet with individual members who have not been able to solve a conflict following Mathew 18 above. This includes disagreements with each other, staff, or pastor. If anyone needs help or has questions, please contact a committee member: Phyllis Cavens, Barb Clausen, Harry Blair, and Barb Clausen.



All Saints Day

November 1, 2026

This is a day that we celebrate our loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord. If you want a picture or name in the slide show, please turn in a picture to Ginger. More information will come in the October newsletter.



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.

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!

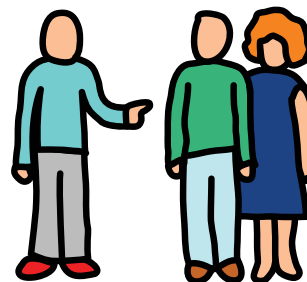
THANK YOU
SO MUCH

to everyone who ran a Summer Surge Series, and to everyone who brought food, and attended. We had a great summer of fellowship and learning opportunities, and songs.

Usher Refresher Training

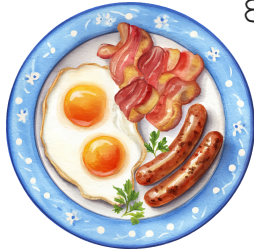
Sunday, Oct. 18

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!



Opportunities to Gather & Learn

Tuesday Breakfast Group
8:00 am



Corner Cafe

796 Commerce Ave. Suite 103
Paused for regrouping

Women's Bible Study
Welcome Back Sept. 15th!



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

10	Gabriel Pelster	23	Glenn Milhiser
11	Harry Blair	26	Rick Siragusa
15	Mona Fiscus	27	Randy Grambo
16	Robin Siragusa		

	Anniversaries
20	Jeff and Mary Storm

RALLY DAY

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 13

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



Shopping List

Top Ramen
Spaghetti Sauce
Canned tomatoes
Shampoo



FISH Dates

Setup Sun, Sept 13 after service
Distribute Mon, Sept 14 @ 8:30

Bible Study

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

Beginning in September

Friday, September 18th online at 10:00

Sunday, September 20th in person at 11:15

Welcome to our new children and youth programs!

We are now meeting 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



MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS



	Sept. 6	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27
Greeter	Barb Clausen	Shelly Limpach	George Obermeyer	Barb Utto
Ushers	Tom Hughes Russ Gilchrist	Chris Engebo Olivia Engebo	Harry Blair	
Reader	Pam van den Driessche	Barb Clausen	Renee Pelster	Duane Thompson
Communion Setup	Nancy Skora	Bob Reistroffer	Dot Blair	
Communion Assist	Nancy Skora	Pat Reistroffer		
Powerpoint	John Pelster	Lee Limpach		Carol Thompson
Live Service			John Pelster	
Financial Secretary	Pam van den Driessche	Barb Wilson	Mary Storm	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee Hour	Carol Thompson	Pie Social Potluck		Pam van den Driessche Sandy Hubert-Smith
Volunteer Coordinator		Phyllis Cavens	John Pelster	

ATTENDANCE	
Aug	TOTAL
2	46
9	39
16	51
23	42
30	46
AVG	45

Offering to date August	
2025	2026
\$90,891	\$123,949
Expenses to date July	
2025	2026
\$104,949	\$111,043

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, August 13, 2026 3:15 p.m.

Attendance - Present: Tori Gosch, Beth Grambo, Susan Shui, Phyllis Cavens, George Obermeyer, Pastor Susan Dollinger, John Pelster; Absent: Barb Clausen

Devotions and Prayer – Phyllis Cavins

Call to Order and President's Report – Beth Grambo called the meeting to order at 3:26pm

- Decisions made between council meetings: Approved payment for the annual insurance of \$6,000; Changed the Emergency Fund to the Colorado fires and Venezuela earthquake for August; Emergency Fund to the Spokane Fires for September.

Agenda Changes-

- Devotions for September 10-Barb Clausen

Secretary's Report – John Pelster

- June 11, 2026, minutes - Filed as Submitted

Treasurer's Report – Susan Shui

July		2026 YTD		July 2025		2025 YTD	
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
\$10,557	\$12,233	\$88,664	\$92,013	\$12,953	\$12,567	\$75,475	\$86,433
Fell Short by \$1,676		Fell Short by \$3,349		Fell Short by \$386		Fell Short by \$10,958	

- **Synod Remittance** June \$570.29/ July \$369.48
- **Emergency Fund Report-** June Cowlitz Wahkiakum Labor Council (Nippon Relief) \$753.80 / July Bread for the World \$184.00
- **Attendance for Averages:** June 43 /July 41

Ministry Reports –

- **Hospitality:** Considering a pie social for rally day, Sept. 13; Congratulations for the new bigger refrigerator — thanks for your hard work!!!
- **Memorial:** No update
- **Worship/Music:**
 - Next lay-led service will be August 23.
 - Due to Dor's second church commitment, Music and Worship can no longer meet on Sundays. A new meeting time and schedule will be established.
- Rally Day will be Sept. 13;
- **Youth/Service:**
 - Pastor and Pat Reistroffer have met to develop the growing "Seed" program. The wonderful addition of a three-year-old to the group requires a different educational experience. There are three students in the current confirmation class, and the most recent confirmands have requested a bible study. We will be continuing the once-a-month education on the second Saturdays, with a Small Seed and Sprout Sunday following, based on the second Saturday NOT the second Sunday. Pastor is in conversation with the parents of the confirmand graduates study group to determine the frequency of their meeting. The youth and confirmand activities will not start up until October.
 - Pastor met with Alexis, the new community outreach director at Community House. They are interested in us helping with Welcome Kits for the eighteen-year olds who have to transfer out of Beth's Place to Community House. More information and discussion to follow.
- **Duct Tape Crew:** Pastor Susan Dollinger, George Obermeyer;
- Dan Lane has fixed the front door which wasn't closing properly. Thank you Dan!
- Carol Thompson has cleaned and organized the Duct Tape closet and Faith Room, taken all the rummage sale leftover items to Goodwill, and turned the nursery back into a nursery. Thank you Carol!
- Duct Tape is canceled on September 17;
- **Stewardship:**
 - First meeting for this year will be August 19th at noon. Nancy Skora, Phyllis Cavens and Renee Pelster will serve on this team
- **Mutual Ministry:** August 19 at 10:30;
- **Women's Bible Study:**
 - Women of Bethany and the Bible Study group met in July for prayer and catch up. They also hosted a lunch for Kathy Newton who was visiting. They will meet again on August 25 for prayer and catch-up.
- Meeting Beth Milhiser for farewell lunch at Applebee's on August 18th at noon;
- **Education:**

- The next Bible Study will be on the book of Genesis, titled “The Scoundrels...I mean the Founders...of our Faith.”
- **Minister’s Report:** Pastor Susan
- **To develop time/task management systems to reduce workload & stressful times.**
- **Strengthen spiritual growth (members/outreach)-** We had three new members join on July 12: Harold Nunn, Cyndi and Dave Long.
- **Other:** Pastor will officiate Bee Garner’s wedding (offsite) on October 3 and provide the couple with marriage counseling throughout August.
- **Goal/Action Plan Progress Report:** 2026-2027: July summer sessions have been a big success. Over twenty people attended the short films and the hymn-sing events. Thank you Barb Clausen for organizing this!

Unfinished Business:

- **Clipboard Volunteer Sign Ups** - Everyone
- **Water Department Bill ongoing saga** – Waiting for a response from Longview about canceling the sewer line charges since the water went on the ground and not through the sewer line. We appreciate Ginger’s diligent work on this.

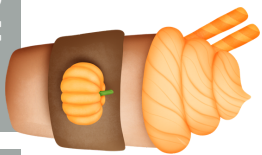
New Business:

- **Quarterly Meeting August 13th 5:00 (following Council) - Calendar of Events Review**
- **Night Activity in the Parking Lot** - Requested more police visibility; Justin Garner will re-orient our cameras to give us better coverage; Our neighbor has noted other activity and informed us;
- **New Service Opportunity - Community House “Welcome Home Packages”** - Pastor is collaborating with Community House on a new project to provide household and personal items for new residents at Community House, more information to follow.

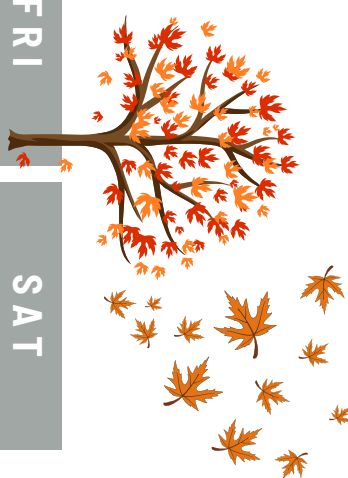
Staff Report:

- **Schedule** - Dor is now playing on Sundays after our service at a church in Kalama. She is managing both responsibilities well;
- **Facility Use Approval** - Friendship Force August 17 (Setup August 16) 5:00 PM, Ladies of the Lake Quilt Guild Sept 17, 18, 19 and November 20-21, March 13, 2027, Kim Moran’s son’s wedding. **Moved, seconded and approved.**
- **Vacation Request** -
 - Pastor is requesting August 21st & 25th, 26th, 27th and Sept 22nd, 23rd, and 24th as vacation days. **Moved, seconded and approved.**
 - Pastor will be attending the Dean’s Conference Retreat October 13, 14, and 15.
 - Ginger requests to work on September 18 instead of September 10 and then use November 24-25 for vacation during Thanksgiving; **Moved, seconded and approved.**
- **Adjournment** - Beth Grambo adjourned the meeting adjourned at 4:23pm

Next Scheduled Meetings: Executive Committee Wednesday, Sept. 2 12:00 ; Council – Thursday, Sept 10th, 3:00 pm;



SEPTEMBER 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
6 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	7 	1 8:00 Breakfast Group 6:00 Boy Scouts	2 12:00 Exec Meeting 1:30 Moments @ the Lake	3 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT	4 6:00 Girl Scouts	5
13 Rally Day Service Pie Potluck 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 FISH Setup	14 8:30 FISH DIST.	8 8:00 Breakfast Group 6:00 Boy Scouts <i>Pastor PLU</i>	9 11:00 Stewardship 1:30 Moments @ the Lake	10 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT 3:00 Council Meet <i>Ginger out of office</i>	11 6:00 Girl Scouts	12
20 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	21	15 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	16 1:30 Moments @ the Lake	17 <i>Ladies of the Lake Quilters</i>	18 6:00 Girl Scouts	19
27 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	28	22 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	23 1:30 Moments @ the Lake	24 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT	25 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Girl Scouts	26
29 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women of Bethany Meeting 6:00 Boy Scouts	30 1:30 Moments @ the Lake					

GOD'S BLESSINGS TO

September 2026 **NEWSLETTER** Bethanylongview.org

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Susan Dollinger : pastor@bethanylongview.org
Church Musician Dorothy McMillan
Admin Assist Ginger Garner: secretary@bethanylongview.org



OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday-Thursday
9:30-3:00

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Services 9:30
Coffee Hour 10:30