BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Minstry 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



' He said to [his disciples], "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. Mark 6:31.

Dear Bethany,

Recently, my younger daughter moved home, if you can call it that as she is barely ever there. She is a junior in college now and saving up money for law school. I had forgotten how fast she moves from one thing to another. It was only a few years ago when we were caught up in her busy schedule; driving her from school to soccer practice, to a meeting, to tennis practice to a social outing with friends. Now she drives herself, and her schedule doesn't interfere with mine in the same way it used to, but she has two internships, two jobs, and full-time school so we don't see her very often at all. Zoom! There she goes. Zoom! Back just for a minute. Zoom! Out again.

The other day, she came home tired after her shift at one of her jobs and sat down for less than a minute and a half, literally 90 seconds, if that. She said she was going to bed. I gave her a quick kiss on the head and a small hug and told her I love her. That is it. But I got to do it. I got to see her pretty little head, and give her love in person. It is not much, not much at all, but I am grateful for that very brief moment. I pray she feels the love we have for her even in the brief 90 second window that she allots to us.

Often times we think of Jesus as our shepherd, meandering the hills and dark places with his rod and staff, and we follow. We forget these other times where the crowds followed Jesus everywhere and they all needed help. Jesus was busy and he didn't always get to slow down between waves of ministry or people. There were times he had to hide to rest.

Life is funny that way, we go, go, go for a time, and slowing down seems like a waste. Then we do slow down, and that feels pretty good for a while until maybe we end up moving way too slow. At every age there is a balance, and we need to find it. We also need to find to spend time in scripture, prayer and in church. Other life can circle around those events, but our time with Jesus needs to be there.

Finding the above scripture in Mark, helped me remember that Jesus is with us in all our times, the busy ones and the slow ones, and he understands both speeds. We are grateful for a Savior that came to our world and took on flesh to be a part of life and to walk with us, or run beside us if needed. We can pray at all speeds and Jesus is there and understands our needs in the moments even when life goes by at a speed you never intended.

Thank you, God, for being there all of life. Amen

Warmly, 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.

Ministry of the month: Youth, Service, FISH

Youth Services- The Small Seeds, Sprouts, & Confirmation are led by Pastor Susan, Pat Reistroffer, and Bob Reistroffer with help from Chris Engebo. Guiding, encouraging, and educating our youth while they have fun and participate fully in the worship life of the congregation has deeply enriched our church family. This includes, Saturdays, Sunday worship & service such as Family Promise.

The Service portion of the committee is Barb Clausen, Pat Reistroffer, Bob Reistroffer, and Pastor Susan. We are eager to have members join us in the many activities we do! They include September God's Work, Our Hands; Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Card/Box gathering; Angel Tree for children/families; Lexington and Columbia Heights School partnership events (Valentine's, Mother's Day, book fairs, Literacy Nights, etc.) In addition, the committee has oversight of the grant monies. Barb Clausen finds and writes grants which then are paid on a monthly basis to the two programs that buy and prepare Weekend Go Bags for Hungry Kids. Family Community Resource Centers in Kelso and Longview also receive fall start up checks and vacation checks to help families cover the needs of families when school food is not available.

The Fish portion of our service work meets separately with Pam Van Den Driessche and her team of about twenty volunteers. They provide food boxes for families up to ninety or more people about every five weeks as assigned by the Cowlitz County Fish operation. FISH pays for the meat, eggs, milk, peanut butter and bread; Safeway gives products; and members' donations as well as Bethany's budget provide additional food and hygiene products as needed.

Emergency Fund August: Columbia Heights and Lexington Christmas Food Boxes

We are now gathering the funds to support families in the two schools for the Christmas vacation. Rather than buying food and donating, since COVID we have started asking members to give funds and then the schools use the money to fill in the foods that are needed while considering any other donations they get. The families that are selected for these boxes are in high need and without sufficient financial support to feed the children. Your donations mean a great deal to them during vacations when food is not provided at the schools!

Thank you for your generous gifts from what God has given you!

UPCOMING
Events

All Saints Sunday
Sunday, November 1

Daylight Savings
Sunday, November 1

FISH
Setup: Thursday, November 5 at 9:00
Distribution: Friday, November 6 at 8:30

Council Meetings
November 4 @ 12:00 Executive Meeting (Zoom)
November 12 @ 3:00 Council Meeting

Quarterly Meeting
November 12 at 4:30- All are welcome

Veteran's Day
November 11- **Office Closed**

Small Seeds and Sprouts/ Youth Bible Study
November 14
10:00 Small Seeds 11:00 Youth Bible 12:30 Sprouts

Pledges Due
November 15

Sip and Craft
November 18 from 2:00-4:00

Thanksgiving Week
November 24-26- **Office Closed**

Decorate Church
Sunday, November 29

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 ivonak@ci.longview.wa.us 360.442.5208





Children's Sweat Pants Needed

Children and accidents are common in schools! Columbia Heights shelf is empty, and we would like to fill it up! Next time you are out shopping or online, please pick up girls underpants in all sizes and sweat pants in any children's size (small, medium, large, xlarge)! Dark blue, gray, black are especially helpful as they can be worn by both girls and boys! Put them in the box "frog" covered box lid in the Faith Room and we will deliver them. Thank you for supporting our school partner!





· Thank you to the Stewardship team for their hard work: Beth Grambo, Pastor Susan, Phyllis Cavens, and Nancy Skora



A special thank you to Ginger for taking pictures, documenting the damage and work, calling help, and "bird dogging" the bills for sewer when the water never went down the drains! Ginger, you are the best!

Caring for the Homeless in Cold Weather

During Advent on Wednesday, Dec. 2, we will be doing care bags for the homeless—a little differently this time! Please check the list, shop sales, and add to the boxes the week of November 23-Dec. 2nd. We are thankful for what the Lord has provided for us to share with those in need!

socks, gloves, hats, Insulated water bottles, band aids, wet wipes, toothbrushes/paste, travel lotion, chap sticks, Nail clippers, Hot drink packets w/ stir wash cloths, single serve protein (tuna, cheese, peanut butter, chicken, etc.) w/ forks

If you have extra small plastic bags, they are helpful to add to their zip lock bag!

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

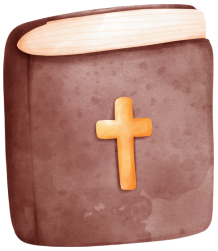


This is a wonderful opportunity for people to sit in the Word and have holy conversation while we discuss the scriptures for the following Sunday.

DUCT TAPE
needs
YOU

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

01 Beth Milhiser
04 Dorothy Blair
10 John Baumberger
11 Lee Limpach
18 Dor McMillan

CELEBRATE

19 Don Wallin
20 Deone Munn
22 Jonah Pelster
29 David Long
30 Russ Gilchrist

CELEBRATE

01 Gunars & Suzanne Arnits
06 Carl & Peggy Winston
18 John & Renee Pelster
20 Dean & Debra Takko
23 David & Cyndie Long
27 Justin & Ginger Garner



Bible Study

Scoundrals... I mean founders of our faith.

A walkthrough of the characters of Genesis

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

Fridays online at 10:00

Sundays in person at 11:15

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.

October -May



Small Seeds - Littles	Youth Bible Study	Sprouts - Confirmation
10:00 - 10:45 am	11:00 - 12:30 pm	12:30 - 1:30 pm

Advent



December 2 at 12:00

Service Project

December 16 at 12:00

Hymn Sing



Happy Thanksgiving!

The office will be closed

November 24-26

Bethany Lutheran Women

Invite you to

Sip & Craft

Wednesday, Nov. 18th 2:00-4:00

Come join us in the Fellowship Hall for a warm beverage, a nibbly snack, and warm conversation to celebrate women!

You can bring a craft to work on or come just for the fellowship. Bring your favorite Bible verse to share and a nibble for snacking. Cocoa, hot tea, and cider provided.

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Greeter			Youth		
Ushers					
Reader			Youth		
Communion Setup	Shelly Limpach	Bob Reistroffer			
Communion Assist	Shelly Limpach	Pat Reistroffer			
Powerpoint					
Live Service					
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm	Pam van den Driessche	Barb Wilson	Mary Storm	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee Hour					
Volunteer Coordinator	Barb Clausen			Tori Gosch	Tori Gosch

ATTENDANCE	
October	**TOTAL**
4	**29**
11	**37**
18	**47**
25	**Trinity**
AVG	**38**

Offering to date October	
2025	**2026**
$119,865	$143,973
Expenses to date October	
2025	**2026**
$138,936	$129,695

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)

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

Bethany Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes– Thursday, October 21, 2026 3:00 p.m.

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

Devotions and Prayer – Phyllis Cavens

Call to Order and President's Report – Barb Clausen called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm

- **Decisions made between council meetings** - none
- **Agenda Changes** - Vacation schedule for Pastor Susan and Ginger
- **Devotions for November 12** - Beth Grambo

Secretary's Report – John Pelster

- **Council Minutes**-Sept.19, 2026 - Filed as submitted

Treasurer's Report – Susan Shui - Moved, seconded and approved to accept treasurer report as submitted

September		2026 YTD		September 2025		2025 YTD	
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expenses
$12,424	$12,458	$136,374	$123,644	$20,949	$13,102	$111,840	$118,578
Fell Short by $34		Exceeded by 12,730		Fell Short by $ 7,611		Exceeded by $ 53,741	

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

- **Synod Remittance** - $434.85
- **Emergency Fund Report**- $90.40 WA Wildfires
- **Attendance Average**- 32
- **Audit Report** - It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the report and treasurer's report as submitted.
- **Synod Giving Policy**-We reviewed the policy and made a decision: It was moved and seconded to use the Synod Guideline for the congregation's giving to the synod and stay at 3.5% as recommended. Motion carried.

Ministry Reports –

- **Hospitality**: The pie social was wonderful—thank you for sweet and savory! We are grateful for members who have provided funds/food if they cannot host the coffee hours—Hospitality has really helped out—thank you!
- **Memorial:** Joyce Croy No report
- **Worship/Music**: Met Sept. 17th; Next meeting Oct. 22;
  - o Pet Blessing Sunday, Oct.4th was in the FH for a lively service!
  - o Russ Gilchrist will be preaching on Nov. 22 for a lay-lead service—thank you, Beth!
  - o Reformation Sunday at Trinity on Oct. 25th at 10:30 - Wear red! Potluck to follow. Choir 8:45;
  - o Advent services will be at noon on possibly Dec 2 and/or Dec 16. Christmas Eve will be 4:00pm;
- **Youth/Service**: Barb Clausen Met Sept. 30;
  - o Grant money: We have now transferred all grant money for hungry kids to Kelso SD from Peace Health as their authorization. We no longer are doing grant writing as there are very few available.

o FISH: Sept.7 Served 14 families. Thank you, Bethany, we are blessed to be a blessing! Next Fish is Nov 6

o Small seeds start-up was Oct. 10th with three separate age groups meeting: Small Seeds 10:00, Youth Bible Study 11:00, 12:30 Sprouts;

o Planned meetings with Lexington, Columbia Heights, and planning to add Family Promise for Angel Tree. Set calendar dates for events for the year;

● **Duct Tape Crew**: Pastor Susan Dollinger, George Obermeyer;

o Life Works - Jeremy Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 working well with the adult;o Replaced Women's bathroom toilet seat and cover;

● **Stewardship**: Pastor Susan, Beth Grambo, Nancy Skora & Phyllis Cavens have been meeting and planning with a theme of "The Key Is in Your Hands." Finalized the letter and plans. The campaign is Oct. 18-Nov 15.

● **Mutual Ministry**: Met on Oct. 21 morning. Next meeting is January 20 at 10:00;
● **Women's Bible Study**: Meeting every Tuesday, 10:30 with prayer and the *Gather* magazine;

● **Education**:
o Bible Study -Studying the Genesis' Scoundrels every Friday on zoom and Sunday in person at 11:15;

● **Minister's Report: Pastor Susan**

o Manage Time/Tasks - (balance project prep/personal time) - two day's vacation in Sept. helped!

o Strengthen spiritual growth (members/outreach) - Attended the PLU convocation & clergy meeting on Sept. 8;

o Other - New Castle Rock pastor, Pr. Jean DeVoll-Donaldson, starting Oct. 1 at ¾ time; Worked with a couple on marriage counseling August-September;

o Goal/Action Plan Progress Report: 2026-2027: To strengthen our spiritual growth so that God's promises come alive & Christ's love is shared with others. Summer Events *Corrected*- S'mores 7 & 2 guests; Film Festival 18 members & more than 2 guests; Oyster Shell Art-7 members & 1 guest; Hymns & Sundaes-11 members, 5 guests; Scams & Hacking 9 Member, 6 Guests; Portugal Pilgrimage 10 members, 21 guests;

Unfinished Business:

● **Endowment Committee**: Meeting Date TBD Phyllis Cavens, Barb Wilson, Don Wallin, Susan Shiu, and Pastor served on this elected committee.

● **Women of Bethany:** Met on Sept. 30th and planning a "Sip and Craft" for women on Wednesday, Nov 18th 2:00-4:00 - bring a Bible verse and either bring a craft to work on or come and admire others' work! Carol Thompson and Barb Utto will attend the SWWA Women of the ELCA conference in Tacoma, and will take along our donation to the group. (Barb Utto's pastor daughter is the speaker!)

● **Lower Columbia Lutherans**: No report; (Pastors preparing for Reformation Sunday joint service);

● **Clipboard Volunteer Sign Ups**: Reminder to please mark your calendars—please try to fill in the whole month;

● **Fire/Safety Security Plan**: Next drill scheduled.

● Facility Use Form Addition: External use by outside groups that require the sound system will include a $125 fee paid to the church designated operator—approved by council last month;

● **Usher Refresher Training**: Oct. 18th for 15 minutes after service in the sanctuary; Follow up online;
● **Website Committee**: Oct. 28th at 2:30pm on Zoom;
New Business:

● **Holiday Planning:** Family Advent & Decorating Nov. 29th; Dec.6 Bishop preaching & Smorgasbard Luncheon following; Stella has been invited to join us;

● **Annual Meeting Schedule-** Thursday, Jan. 7 Council/Budget 2:00-5:00; Letter Jan. 814 Distribution Jan. 24; Meeting January 31 following potluck;

● **Dimmer Switch Fading in Sanctuary** - $5,000. Temporarily very hard to turn off (wearing out) *don't turn off–use the breaker!*

● **Nominations Committee**: Moved, seconded, and approved to appoint George Obermeyer and Barb Clausen as council representatives on the nominations committee. Pat Reistroffer, Carol Lane, & Chris Engebo are the elected representatives;

● **Pastor's Computer**: Pastor Susan's laptop has failed and a new one is required. Pastor is researching options. We have some funds in technology and the Thrivent we can use for a portion of the expense;

● **Larry Jackson Reception:** Dec. 12 4:00-7:00pm

Staff Report –

● **Facility Use Reminders**: Ladies of the Lake Quilting Sew Fun Days Friday, Nov.20-21 (no girl scouts);

● **Vacation Schedule:** Vacation schedules: Pastor Susan: Nov 10. 19, 20, 24, 25, Dec 29, 30, 31 Ginger Nov. 24, 25 Dec 24; It was moved, seconded, and approved. Note: We changed the continuing education dates of Oct. 14-15 to vacation due to the Bishop's surgery;

Adjournment-Barb Clausen adjourned the meeting at 4:14pm.

Next Scheduled Meetings: Executive Committee Wednesday, Nov. 4 12:00; Council – Thursday, Nov. 12th 3:00 pm; Quarterly meeting 4:15 on Nov. 12th –all are welcome!



NOVEMBER 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 **All Saints** 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour **11:15 Bible Study** **Daylight Saving ends**	2	3 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	4 **12:00 Exec Meeting** 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	5 **9:00 FISH Setup** Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT	6 **8:30 FISH DIST.** 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Girl Scouts	7
8 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour **11:15 Bible Study**	9	10 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	11 VETERANS DAY November 11th **Office Closed**	12 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT **3:00 Council** **4:30 Quarterly**	13 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Girl Scouts	14 **10:00 Small Seeds** **11:00 Youth Bible** **12:30 Sprouts**
15 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour **11:15 Bible Study** **Annual Reports due** **Budget Requests due**	16	17 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	18 **2:00-4:00 Sip & Craft**	19 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT	20 *Ladies of the* 6:00 Girl Scouts	21 *Lake Quilters* 1:00 Bookmobile
22 Lay led Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour Mens Ensemble **Pledges Due**	23	24 6:00 Boy Scouts **Office Closed Pastor & Ginger out office**	25	26 happy thanksgiving **Office Closed**	27	28
29 SundayService 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour ***Decorate Church***	30					

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Phone: 360-577-8240

GOD'S BLESSINGS TO

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