

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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May 2024 Newsletter

**Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**

**Pentecost Sunday May 19**

**10 AM Worship**

**Wear RED to celebrate**

**the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit**

Thirty-five years ago this month I first set foot in Washington state as I disembarked from an airplane at Seatac. My initial experience of May here, during the week I was househunting, was this: my surroundings were green and lush beyond belief, it was HOT (over 90 for most of the week), and SUNNY and there was this gi-normous mountain which appeared around the corner everywhere I went.

In subsequent years, of course, I came to know that May is manifested and experienced in a variety of ways and it cannot be defined quite so exactly as I perceived it in 1989.

So it is with the Holy Spirit. It is wind. It is breath. It is fire. It is silent. It is the fluttering gliding motion of a dove. It is loud like thunder. It brings comfort. It brings turbulence. It is peace. It is affliction. It prays within us when we cannot find the words to pray. It is whatever God knows we need in order to be raised up into real and abundant life.

The witness of millennia ago is that in the beginning the winds blew over the chaos bringing the voice of God which called the world into being. This rushing of the wind continued to represent God's ever present, ever active, intention in the creation to give and sustain life. I am thankful, in May and in every month, for the work of the Holy Spirit: for stirrings that can nudge us forward and for gale force winds which can lift us up and even turn us around. I can speak only for myself, but I know that sometimes I need to be nudged and other times it takes a bit more force to detach me from my seat.

I hope that you will join us on the Day of Pentecost, May 19, for worship, as we hear witness from scripture (with some dramatic help from adults and children) about this Holy Spirit. If you'd like to read ahead, we will be hearing from Ezekiel 37:1-14 (the breath of life into dry bones), selections from Psalm 104 (Spirit of renewal), Acts 2:1-21 (sent to do work of Spirit), and John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 (Jesus Christ sending the Spirit of Truth).

The Lord be with you,  
Pastor Janeen

## *Inspirational Quotes*

**Romans 8:18**

**"The pain that you've been feeling, can't compare to the joy that's coming."**

**Matthew 17:20**

**"Faith can move mountains."**

## BETHANY GARDEN

**The garden will need plants to begin the spring planting.**

\*bell pepper starts

\*lettuce starts

\*cucumber starts

\*Roma tomato plants

\*pumpkin starts

Ask Walt and Wendy S. for details.



## **2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GARDEN SALE**

**Sat May 18<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 AM**

**Please bring house plants, outdoor plants and other garden donations to church on or before the event. The proceeds will be used to make a cemented walkway in the garden. Contact Walt or Wendy S. for more information.**

## **Scuba VBS**

**VBS will be  
June 24<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup>**

**10:30 AM TO 1 PM (Lunch included)**

**Ages 3-11 (12 and up can be helpers)**

**Scuba VBS:  
Dive into God's love.**

**Save the Date**

## HOLY HAPPENINGS IN APRIL







Day 1: God is a friend who's real.

Day 2: God is a friend who loves.

Day 3: God is a friend we can trust.

Day 4: God is a friend forever.

Day 5: God is a friend for everyone.

## Crew Stations

**\*Imagination Station** teaches kids in a fun, engaging, experimental way about the daily Bible Point. Instead of making a craft, this is like science experiments that will involve and relate to the Bible verse.

**\*Bible Adventures** engages the kids physically and emotionally. Crew Leaders guide small-group discussions where kids connect their unforgettable Bible experiences to real life.

**\*Sticky Scriptures** the kids dive in and explore each day's Bible verse through an interactive video. Kids are submerged into the undersea world on a submarine. They'll connect to each Bible verse with their bodies, their heads, and their hearts, led by a Bible Memory Buddy friend.

**\*Reef Rec** is where kids play games that connect to the daily Bible Point. The games are safe and suitable for ages 5-11.

**\*Tidal Treats** connects to the Bible Point of the day. As they eat, Crews can get to know each other a little better and have time to make new friends.

**\*Sing and Play Splash** is where kids meet for the opening and closing of each day. Here, the Leader introduces the Bible Point, Bible verse, and Bible Memory Buddy for the day. Kids will sing the theme song, as a celebration of gratitude to God.

**If anyone is interested in helping this year, please contact the office. We are looking for volunteers to be crew leaders, help to make decorations and decorate the rooms. We have already received the first two shipments of supplies and welcome any special \$\$ donations to help us provide this ministry. We anticipate serving 40 + children. Thank you in advance!**

## Mary Bridge Children Hospital

**Are you doing any Spring cleaning around the house?** Please consider donating items to **Mary Bridge Children's Hospital**. *When are donations due? **Before November**. What types of things can you donate? **Items that are gently used or new, but no furniture or clothing**.* Donations go 100% to the cause. Please see Louise Harris for more information.

**Rainier Ringers Present**

## **FANTASIA**

**MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>**

7:00 PM

First Lutheran  
Tacoma, WA

**MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>**

3:00 PM

Puyallup UMC  
Puyallup, WA

**MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

7:00 PM

Lacey Presbyterian  
Lacey, WA

**MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

3:30 PM

Silverdale Lutheran  
Silverdale, WA

**Free Admission**

[www.rainierringers.org](http://www.rainierringers.org)

## May Calendar Highlights

- 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Worship...10 AM  
Property Committee Meeting  
6<sup>th</sup> Worship & Music Committee .....5 PM  
7<sup>th</sup> Adult Bible Study .....10 AM  
9<sup>th</sup> Cemetery Board Meeting .....4 PM  
12<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Worship...10 AM  
14<sup>th</sup> Adult Bible Study.....10 AM  
Council Meeting.....5:30 PM  
16<sup>th</sup> Senior Social..... NOON  
18<sup>th</sup> Garden SALE .....9 AM  
19<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday Worship.....10 AM  
Elbe Worship.....2:30 PM  
21<sup>st</sup> Adult Bible Study .....10 AM  
24<sup>th</sup> Place flags & crosses  
26<sup>th</sup> Holy Trinity Sunday Worship ....10 AM  
27<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day ..... Office is CLOSED  
28<sup>th</sup> Adult Bible Study.....10 AM

Devotionals are in the Narthex. Enjoy!

**Riddle:** First is the last. Last is the First. You are in the middle.  
What am I?

**Please email us if you know!  
Answer will be in June's  
Newsletter!**

**Save the DATE:**

**May 19<sup>th</sup>**

*Leifse turners will be handed out*



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

*If we are missing you, or your birth date is wrong, please let us know!*

Inez Hollmann ..... 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Linda Estby ..... 5<sup>th</sup>  
Evan Ochs ..... 5<sup>th</sup>  
Kathy Mettler ..... 6<sup>th</sup>  
Don Wells ..... 7<sup>th</sup>  
Cody Estby ..... 12<sup>th</sup>  
Mike Marion ..... 18<sup>th</sup>  
Margaret Ochs ..... 19<sup>th</sup>  
Malisha Ritz ..... 21<sup>st</sup>  
Kim Nelson ..... 31<sup>st</sup>

*May God Bless You!*

## **Spanaway Food Bank**

We have been receiving some great donations for the food bank lately. We actually gave out peanut butter and jelly to the kids last month! Thank you everybody!

Remember we need tote bags. The homeless on foot and bicycles can't take any food with them if we don't have tote bags. We use plastic bags when we have to, but they try to take so much that they often break. Remember TP!

We always need more volunteers. The jobs are around 2-2 1/2 hours per month.

Please call Cathy Keyes 253-847-5469.

~Cathy

## **Council Members & Officers**

**April 2024 – March 2025**

Kelli Bacher, Secretary  
Gary Christensen  
Stan Lind  
Walt Sandor  
Carol Severson, Treasurer  
Janeen Smith, Pastor  
Paulette Van Cleve, Vice-President  
Rick Ward, President

## **Staff & Contact Information**

Bethany Pastor Janeen Smith  
[neenigal@gmail.com](mailto:neenigal@gmail.com)  
253.209.5774 (text or call)

Administrative Assistants:  
Kristi Fandrich, in office T-Th  
Wendy Smitherman, in office Mon.  
Andrew Vert, remote work on web

Administrative Email:  
[BethanyLCOffice@gmail.com](mailto:BethanyLCOffice@gmail.com)

Office Hours  
Mon. – Thurs. 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM  
(Closed on Federal Holidays)  
Office Phone 253.847.8801

Financial Secretary Email:  
[bethanyfinancesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyfinancesecretary@gmail.com)

On the web: [www.bethany-l-c.org](http://www.bethany-l-c.org)

On Facebook:  
Bethany Lutheran Church Group

Pianist/Choir Dir: Claudia Simpson-Jones

Custodian: Kirk Goddard

YouTube Channel:  
[BethanyLutheranChurchSpanawayW](https://www.youtube.com/BethanyLutheranChurchSpanawayW)

## **Plastic for a Bench**

We are still collecting plastic until **June 17<sup>th</sup>**. We will be needing all classrooms for VBS. After June 28<sup>th</sup>, we can still collect it if needed.

Please collect soft plastics which include things like **bread bags**, **bubble wrap**, **plastic grocery bags from stores**, and **clean Ziploc bags**. Contact Walt or Wendy for any questions.

**COLLECTING IN ROOM 6!**

## **SENIOR SOCIAL**

April showers brought May  
flowers!

How do our gardens grow?



**MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> @ NOON  
IN LITZER HALL  
ALL ARE  
WELCOME...  
JOIN THE LUNCH  
LADIES FOR LUNCH!**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**Bethany Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 5024  
Spanaway, WA 98387**

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