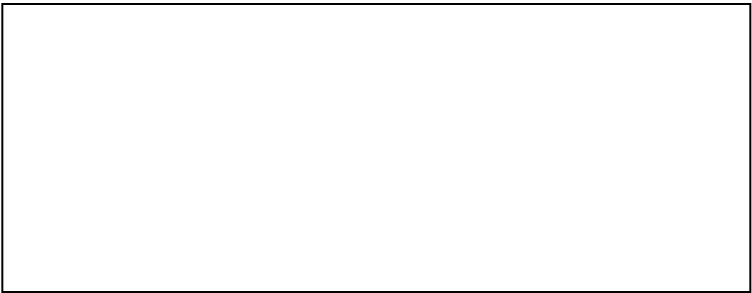


Newsletter of:
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
26414 Mountain Highway East
Spanaway, WA 98387

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We ask God's Blessing for:



Bethany Lutheran Church
26418 Mountain Highway East
Spanaway, WA 98387

Office: 253-847-8801 Fax: 253-847-4770

Office Email: bethanychurchlady@gmail.com

Pastor's Email: pastorgallimore@gmail.com

Website: www.bethany-l-c.org

Sunday Schedule

Sunday, 8:00 am Worship

Sunday 9:00 am Confirmation

Sunday, 9:15 am Sunday School

Sunday, 10:30 am Worship

*Communion is offered weekly at both services. A
gluten-free option is available.*



***"We are a family of believers, gathered in
Christ, called to be disciples, nourished in
the word and sent to serve."***

New Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Bethany Lutheran Church

“... gathered in Christ ...”



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Winter Newsletter 2015

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Ministry Highlight: The Bethany Choir

The Bethany Adult Choir is currently directed by Daleen Haifley and accompanied by Claudia Simpson-Jones. This dedicated group of 15-20 people rehearses each Wednesday and performs twice a month at the 10:30 worship and once a month at the 8:00 worship, year-round. The members range in age from 18-75 and come from diverse backgrounds, but are brought together by their love of music and their willingness to lift their voices in praise. Besides singing during regular worship services, the choir has also performed ... (continued on pg 6)

Winter Worship

The change of seasons from Fall to Winter brings the beauty and wonder of Advent and Christmas to Bethany. This year we celebrated the affirmation of Baptism on Reformation Sunday ...



Confirmation

... assembled and decorated Advent wreaths, decked the Sanctuary with Advent banners, a Christmas tree and poinsettias ...



Advent Workshop

... and shared our 'Gifts of The Season' in a joyful Christmas Musical. The traditions of the church during this festive time are wonderful signs of God-with-us, Emmanuel, Jesus the savior born as a baby.



Ready for Christmas!



"Gifts of the Season"

Youth News

Is God Calling You This Summer?

Do you remember listening to the Youth Group after they’ve returned from a Mission Trip as they’ve shared their experiences with the congregation? The little epiphanies, the awe, the newfound closeness with each other and with God, the deeper understanding of what it means to serve. Have you found yourself thinking, “I wish I could experience that”?

This year, you can! A combined Adult/Youth Mission Trip is being planned for the week of August 2nd-7th at Shoshone Mountain Retreat in Northern Idaho. The cost is \$237 dollars and includes:

- 14 great camp meals
- Lodging
- Dynamic programming developed by Lutheran youth ministry pros
- Great speakers
- Servant-Leadership training sessions for all participants
- Awesome Recreational Activities including Rock climbing... Zip-line...Swimming and more!
- Custom tee shirt
- Significant service and outreach opportunities
- Insurance (secondary)

For more information, please contact our Youth Director, Sarah Simon or call the church office.



A moment to relax at Shoshone 2014

JR & SR High School Gathering

For: Youth Grades 6-12th;
When: March 13-15th
Where: Camp Berachah in Auburn, WA
Speaker: Keith Marshall
Cost: \$75 per person

This weekend gathering is planned and led by the SWWA ALYVE, a group of dedicated high school students from area churches who plan and lead events like this to give our students a chance to meet and hang out with other Lutheran students in Western Washington.



Wednesday Night Youth Group

Youth Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 5:30 p.m. for dinner, fun and Bible studies. We invite all youth in 7th-12th grade to come. Friends are always welcome!

WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING:

Sue Cunningham: “Wow if you ever feel close to God its at Shoshone. With the workgroup or at worship or at meals ... it transforms you... that’s why we are pulled there year after year! You know that God is there!”

Justin Nelson: “It was a great skill building experience and almost like job shadowing. I mean I came one year and chopped fire wood and helped clean the camp and the next I was helping build a new roof on someone’s house. I learned to pour concrete good team building experience the whole time you are there. No cell phone service for a week is also good. “

Stephanie Foster; “Well...I went to Shoshone not really knowing what to expect. I was most pleasantly surprised at what I learned about people. Most just want a little bit of your time. To remember their past, to relive a time from long ago, to just have some company that can help them out, physically, but mostly spiritually. I had forgotten how it feels to renew the spirit and how important it is. Mostly it put me back in touch with God. Giving is a great experience and I highly recommend it!”



Fellowship Through Ministry

The Pie Crust Brigade. Our College Kids and deployed military personnel sure do appreciate the support of the program. Pie sales cover our postage costs. As one mom says, “My kids may be out of the program now, but I’ll always be there for pie-baking day. It ushers in the season!”

Sweatshirts 11 years in the making and sold at the Youth Fall Fundraiser proudly proclaim to our community that Jesus is the Reason for the Season.



Sound of Music Sing-Along

Seahawks support. The 12th man worships here, and remember, Jesus had 12 men, too!



Go Hawks!

Senior celebrations. The Valentine’s Day Senior Social with the men rockin’ their hats, and a nonagintennial shared with 102 Bethany Family members.



Senior Social Feb. 2015



Bunny’s Birthday



A scrumptious dessert. One lucky bidder got a dessert a month at the Fellowship Auction.

Current Council Members

Sandy Cooper
(Pres./Endowment)

Jim Haifley
(VP/Property)

Paulette Van Cleve
(Secretary/Learning)

Galen Gallimore
(Worship & Music)

Bob Lingenfelter
(Fellowship/Growth)

Sharon Edmunds

Jim Erickson

Kimberly Green

Deb Noble-Perry

Sarah Simon

Ruth Smitherman
(Youth Representative)

Sally Williams

Bethany Bible Studies

Adult Bible Study	Sundays, 9:15
Book of Romans	Litzer Hall, Room 9
Luncheon Bible Study	Mondays, 12:00 pm
Various Topics	Mettler Home
Lord & Ladies Bible Study	Tuesdays, 10:00 am
“Resurrection”	Litzer Hall

New Study Beginning!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ changed everything: the very fabric of Creation was transformed, the direction of history had been altered, and the power of death broken.

Through this ten-lesson study, “Resurrection: Living as People of the Risen Lord,” we’ll explore the significance of this glorious event in our own lives. All ladies are welcome to join the Lord & Ladies bible study, 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays in Litzer Hall beginning March 3rd.

Ministry Highlight:
The Bethany Choir *(continued from cover)*

.... cantatas during Holy Week and Christmas. Last year, we took a big step out of our comfort zone as we tried something new - a Christmas musical. Most of the choir was new to “the stage,” but stepped up to the challenge and had a great experience playing to a full house! Some of our members are retired and travel, some sing with other choirs, some are snowbirds, so our numbers are always changing, but we make it work. New recruits are always welcome!



The Bethany Choir

Ongoing Events

<u>Weekly:</u>	
Choir Practice	Wednesdays, 7:00 pm
Bell Choir Practice	Thursdays, 6:45 pm/ Fridays, 6:45 pm (alternating)
Sunday School	Sundays, 9:15 am
Confirmation	Sundays, 9:00 am
<u>Monthly:</u>	
Men’s Breakfast	1 st Saturday 8:00 am
Property Meeting	1 st Tuesday
Graham Patchers	1 st & 3 rd Fridays 9:00 am
Council Meeting	2 nd Tuesday 6:30 pm
Youth Group	2 nd & 4 th Wednesdays 5:30 pm
Retired Men	2 nd & 4 th Thursdays, 10:00 am
Quilters	2 nd Friday (may vary) 9:00 am
Senior Social	3 rd Thursday 12:00 pm

A Note of Thanks

Prayer Chain

I Hope you know how much I appreciate everything you’ve done.

*Joyce Nelson
& Family*

Pastor’s Message

Christmas Conundrum

A funny thing happened this Christmas at Bethany and I am still trying to figure it out. Our attendance numbers for Christmas Eve worship plummeted! Typically, attendance is just below 300. This year it was 197! What happened? There was no snow, no ice storm, no freezing rain or slick roads. There have been no major fights or upsets in the congregation. I don't know of any sporting events or concerts that would have drawn crowds away...except...our own Christmas musical.

After Christmas it began to sink in that perhaps we had shot ourselves in the foot. Our very own keyboardist, Claudia Simpson-Jones, had put on her writer/director/producer's hat(s) and written/directed/produced a fantastic musical event called “Gifts of the Season”. Yours truly was invited to play a role, along with my two boys, the choir, a few of our multi-talented youth and their friends. After many hours of choir practice and group rehearsals, we managed to pull off one of the most well received musical events Bethany has seen in a long while.

Let me say this next part carefully, and please read it carefully, too. The past few years our choir cantatas have been poorly attended. The choir, their family members and a few other church members were the standard crowd. Those who came were blessed, yet I know how disappointing it can be to work hard learning music and see so many empty seats out there in the sanctuary. The greatest disappointment was that the message of Jesus' birth was reaching only a handful of folks who have heard the story many times before, instead of many people who have never heard the real story of Christmas.

So back to those disappointing Christmas Eve numbers. The number of folks who weren't at the Christmas Eve worship services is about the same as the number of folks who attended, many for the first time, our Christmas musical. Coincidence? I think not. Members came, for sure, but also family and friends and people who had never before been in our sanctuary. We ran out of parking and were seating people in the narthex. What a great crowd!

Then why didn't we see better numbers on Christmas Eve? Could it be that folks got their Christmas story at the musical? We sang Christmas songs and hymns, secular and sacred, and even a few new songs Claudia wrote just for this show. We certainly told the story of God's love sent to earth through the birth of Christ. We told the story of Jesus' death on the cross to save us – even a miserly old curmudgeon had a change of heart after an encounter with God in a dream. We even had a tableau of the manger scene in sepia tones, with a long-time Bethany tradition, Jim Haifley singing “O Holy Night”.

Yes, it was a Christmas conundrum, a switch-a-roo of sorts with numbers shifting from one event to another. But it was a wonderful way to welcome Christ into our hearts afresh at Christmas. Our Christmas Eve traditions will continue, but we will also continue to find new ways to welcome folks, young and old, members and guests, disciples and seekers, into our sanctuary home during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. This is what we do at Bethany – we’re willing to try something new, for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Pastor Galen Gallimore

Our Christmas Eve traditions will continue, but we will also continue to find new ways to welcome folks, young and old, members and guests, disciples and seekers, into our sanctuary home during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.



Winter Wear for the Food Bank



Sunday School



Samaritan's Purse Christmas Gift Boxes



The Souper Bowl of Caring



Elves for ECEAP Gift Drive



Harvest for the Food Bank

TAKE A LOOK!

You've probably heard the Lotto saying "You can't win if you don't play!" Well, if you want to stay up to date on what's going on here at Bethany, "You won't know if you don't look!" Take a "look" at the many different ways Bethany connects with the congregation and the community.

- The **quarterly publication** highlights activities that the church has participated in during the past months and includes ongoing and upcoming events. (And lots of pictures!)
- The **monthly newsletter** contains dates to remember for the month, a calendar of events, the schedule of those who have volunteered to serve, a financial update, and general announcements.
- The **weekly bulletin** includes a schedule of events for the upcoming weeks, as well as general announcements.
- **Announcements** after the worship service may emphasize something from the bulletin or something that didn't make it into the bulletin.
- We have an **email** list for those wishing to receive the newsletter, announcements, and other information by email.
- The Bethany Lutheran Church **Facebook** group has updates from the office, pictures, videos, and posts from members.
- Explore the **website** for sermons, performances, the lectionary readings and prayer, a copy of the calendar, bulletin announcements, the worship assistant schedule, and much more at: www.bethany-l-c.org

Upcoming Events

Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesdays in Lent, 5:45 pm, Litzer Hall

"I can't wait for Soup Suppers!" Homemade soup, stews, and chilis are on the menu this season as we begin our Soup Suppers on Wednesday, February 25th through Wednesday, March 25th.

Lenten Worship Services

Wednesdays in Lent, 6:45 pm, Bethany Lutheran

Immediately following Soup Suppers there will be a Lenten Worship Service using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy, a favorite here at Bethany, February 25th through March 25th.

March Senior Social, Thursday, March 19th

12:00 noon, Litzer Hall

What are those "lunch ladies" up to next month?? Come and find out! There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can call the office to get your name on the list.

Church Clean-Up/Garden Planting, Sat., March 28th

9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Bethany Lutheran Church

Bring your gloves and willing hands for spring cleaning inside and out in preparation for Easter. We'll also be getting a head start on spring planting in the garden.

Holy Week Service Schedule

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 2nd, 6:45 pm

Good Friday Worship

April 3rd, 6:45 pm

Easter Sunday April 5th,

Sunrise Service 6:30 am

Festival Worship 8:00 am

Festival Worship 10:30 am