

Bethany Lutheran Church

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March 2024 Newsletter

Holy Week and Easter at Bethany – from Hosannas to Alleluias

As we enter March, we are a few weeks into the Lenten season. As March ends, we will enter into the joy of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. All parts of the journey are essential for the building up of our, sometimes weak, faith. All parts of the journey are essential for the formation of our identities as those sent to proclaim God's love and everlasting life through the Son.

On Wednesdays March 6, 13, and 20 we continue with our Lenten midweek series, *Open Our Lives, Lord*, at 6:30 PM, using the familiar music of Holden Evening Prayer (Vespers '86). Please join us. Children are welcome.



We enter Holy Week on Palm/Passion Sunday March 24 at 10 AM by processing with palm branches and *hosannas* and then hearing the passion story according to St. Mark (our primary gospel text for this year).

We return on Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 6:30 PM to hear the mandate given by Jesus to his disciples to love and serve as he does and we empty the worship space of adornments in preparation for Good Friday.

On Friday, March 29, at 6:30 PM we reflect, through candlelit prayer and music and scripture, upon the reality and the impact of the cross. We depart in silence to await the coming of the Lord.



We celebrate, on Easter Sunday, March 31, Jesus' resurrection and the gift of new life through him for all believers. There will be a breakfast from 9 to 9:45 AM in Litzer Hall followed by festival worship at 10 AM in the worship space. You are invited! Jesus died and rose from the dead FOR YOU! Come and receive that good news for yourself and then go out and share it with others.

Alleluias will abound!

ELCA World Hunger

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together.

Hunger facts

- 821 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives.
- According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population.
- At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from.
- 39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,094.

Learn more by going here

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger#1>

In 2019, your support of ELCA World Hunger totaled over \$23 million.

From Alaska to Alabama, from Chile to China, your gifts are hard at work helping our neighbors near and far break the cycle of hunger and poverty. Your generous giving makes it possible for ELCA World Hunger to be present throughout the United States and throughout the world. In 2019, we are supporting:

- Projects in 34 U.S. states and territories
- 63 countries, including the United States

Our Impact

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are making a difference. As a partner of churches, [social ministry organizations](#) and development and [advocacy](#) organizations, ELCA World Hunger helps reach communities most in need throughout the world. Our relationships in the U.S. and around the world create an infrastructure that allows us to be very cost efficient and effective — less than 15 cents of every dollar is used for program administration and fundraising.

HOLY HAPPENINGS IN FEBRUARY



Shrove Tuesday: Creig, Candice, Walt and Mike were busy in the kitchen cooking up pancakes, eggs, and ham for us all to enjoy. It was very delicious food!



Senior Social: The Lunch Ladies did a theme of love and hearts. Everyone socialized, ate, and played bingo with Hershey Kisses.



Happy Birthday!!

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

- Kathy Kuper.....7th**
- Ivy Ochs.....9th**
- Jay Cash.....14th**
- Jennifer Ochs.....18th**
- Anne Wilson.....27th**

May God Bless You!

Mildred celebrating her 100th birthday



March Calendar Highlights

3 rd Sunday Worship	10 AM
Followed by Property Committee Meeting	
5 th Luther Adult Study	10 AM
6 th Soup Supper	5:45 PM
Lent Mid-Week Worship	6:30 PM
10 th Sunday Worship	10 AM
12 th Luther Adult Study	10 AM
12 th March Council Meeting	5 PM
13 th Soup Supper	5:45 PM
Lent Mid-Week Worship	6:30 PM
17 th Sunday Worship	10 AM
19 th Luther Adult Study	10 AM
20 th Soup Supper	5:45 PM
Lent Mid-Week Worship	6:30 PM
21 st Senior Social	12 NOON
<u>Holy Week</u>	
24 th Palm Sunday Worship	10 AM
28 th Maundy Thurs. Worship	6:30 PM
29 th Good Friday Worship	6:30 PM
31 st Easter Sunday Worship	10 AM
followed by children's egg hunt	



Easter Flower Donations

If you would like to help provide flowers for Easter, in memory of or in honor of someone, donation envelopes are on the table with the bulletins.

Easter Breakfast at Bethany

You are invited to breakfast before worship on Easter Sunday, March 31

9 – 9:45 AM in Litzer Hall

Want to help cook or provide food? Contact Creig Kuwitsky or look for a sign up in the Narthex soon!

Children's Egg Hunt at Bethany

Following Easter worship! Inside or out, depending on the weather.

Donations of wrapped candy and small toys/favors to put in eggs are welcome. There will be a basket in the Narthex soon. Want to help? Email bethanylcoffice@gmail.com and let us know!

News From Around the Community

Spanaway Food Bank

Smoky Smith (The manager of the food bank) wanted to give Bethany a special shout out. He wants to thank everyone at Bethany for their contributions to the food bank. He said that even when things are going badly, he always knows that because of Bethany he will be able to pay the electric and some emergency bills. The electric is no small deal with at least 8 commercial fridges and freezers. The food bank always has urgent needs; he is so thankful for Bethany! Your contributions help a lot of people in our community.

Food Basket in the Narthex at Bethany

We always need egg cartons, plastic bags, tote bags, and hygiene supplies. Currently, while all food is needed and welcome, our biggest food need is cereal and peanut butter so that each family can receive some.

- Cathy Keyes

Council Members & Officers
April 2023 – March 2024

Kelli Bacher, Secretary
Lisa Olson, President
Walt Sandor
Carol Severson, Vice-President
Janeen Smith, Pastor
Wendy Smitherman
Paulette Van Cleve, Treasurer
Rick Ward
Congratulations to Gary Christensen and Stan Lind who were elected to 3 year terms beginning in April 2024. Lisa Olson's and Wendy Smitherman's terms will conclude then.

Staff & Contact Information

Bethany Pastor Janeen Smith
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

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

On the web: www.bethany-l-c.org

On Facebook:
Bethany Lutheran Church Group

Pianist: Claudia Simpson-Jones

Custodian: Kirk Goddard

Update:

Plastic for a Bench

We now need to collect 528 LBS for our next bench in 200 DAYS! Please keep collecting soft, foldable plastics only, which include things like **bread bags, bubble wrap, plastic grocery bags, and clean Ziploc bags. ***Please, no hard plastics, no mesh bags, and no packaging peanuts*****

Contact Wendy Sandor for any questions. Thanks!

COLLECTING IN ROOM 6!

SENIOR SOCIAL

MARCH 21ST

@ NOON IN LITZER HALL
COME JOIN THE LUNCH
LADIES AS WE CELEBRATE
SPRING & EASTER!





**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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