

# Bethany Lutheran Church

26418 Mountain Hwy E, Spanaway, WA 98387 ~ Janeen Smith, Pastor

“Sent to Serve”



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## November Newsletter 2018

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### Advent Worship

Sundays, Dec. 2, 9, & 16  
8:00 AM Worship  
9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship  
Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
10:30 AM

### Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

### Office Hours

Monday – Thursday  
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

### Office Phone

**Phone:** 253-847-8801

### Email:

[bethanychurchlady@gmail.com](mailto:bethanychurchlady@gmail.com)

### Pastor Janeen

(Call or Text)

**Phone:** 253-209-5774

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### Website:

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

## Advent & Christmas Worship

On the first three Sundays of Advent, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, & Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, we will worship at our regular worship times: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM. On Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, there will be only one service at 10:30 AM, which will include the Sunday School Christmas Program. Christmas Eve services will be Monday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM.



5<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Scandinavian Bazaar  
Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 9-1pm

Hosted by Bethany Lutheran Church Youth  
264-18 Mt. Hwy E, Spanaway, WA 98387

## Bethany Reads

I have a confession. I prefer reading the New Testament to the Old. But I recently read a series of books that helped me look with new eyes at the Old Testament. Chronicles of the Kings is a 5-book historical fiction series by Lynn Austin. What I really liked about this series was that although it is fiction, each book refers you to the Bible verses that the books are based on, and I found myself going from book to Bible. The characters, the culture, and the narrative all helped bring the Old Testament to life for me, while the struggles and questions of faith the characters experience are timeless. I found myself asking “how” questions a lot. How could someone experience and acknowledge a miracle in one chapter and then turn from God entirely eight chapters later?? Some days I dreaded finding out the answers and would put off reading; other times I would stay up wayyy too late, unable to stop reading! Daleen Haifley

## Christmas Book Fair

Sunday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, is the last day to shop the Children's Christmas Book Fair. The display table is **in the library**. Orders will be sent in on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> and will arrive before Christmas. Tax is included in the marked prices and checks can be made out to Bethany Lutheran Church. Please fill out your order form, attach your check or cash to the form, and leave in the marked box on the display table.

## Messiah Concert

Ring in the season with glorious music, followed by coffee and refreshments. The Bethany Choir will present selections from Handel's Messiah on Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. The choir is joined by members of Yelm United Methodist Church and Opera Pacifica and will be accompanied by the Olympia Chamber Orchestra Wind Ensemble. Claudia Simpson-Jones will be directing, Jim & Daleen Haifley will be two of the soloists, along with Warren Shaffer from United Methodist, and Mayra Pena from Opera Pacifica. No reservations are required this year. The doors will be open for seating at 2:30 PM. *(Suggested donation \$10)*



*"Cold" Stories, November Senior Social*

## Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas Program will take place during the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Come and hear the story of "Jesus – God's Greatest Gift," proclaimed by our youth in word and song with a little audience participation!

## Calendar of Events

### Scandinavian Bazaar

Sun. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9 – 1:00 PM, Litzer Hall

### Property Meeting

Tues. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM, Library

### Bethany Quilters

Tues. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM, Litzer Hall

### Council Meeting

Tues. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, Litzer Hall

### Youth Group

Wed. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM, Litzer Hall

### Yahweh Yarners

Sun. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:15 AM, Library

### Messiah Concert

Sun. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 PM, Sanctuary

### Senior Social

Thurs. Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 PM, Litzer Hall

### Sunday School Christmas Program

Sun. Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, during 10:30 service

### Christmas Eve Services

Mon. Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

### Christmas Day

Tues. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – OFFICE CLOSED

### Baptism/Godspeed

Sun. Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, during 10:30 service

## Senior Social

Join the Lunch Ladies for a "Christmas Gathering" on Thursday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. Come gather for a hot lunch, dessert, and fellowship. Please sign up in the narthex so enough food will be prepared. We ask that you remember the food bank as you come this month. The Blessing Bag Project will benefit the food bank with your donations of women's hygiene products. Suggested items are: soap, shampoo and feminine products. Of course, food items are also appreciated. Thank you in advance. Door prize tickets will be handed out as you fill the pink box!

## Thanksgiving Dinner

On Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, thirty-one Bethany members and friends gathered for a lovely feast, as well as football, puzzles, crafts, and music. We are so thankful for this church family!



## ELCA Good Gifts

The ELCA Good Gifts ornament tree is in Litzer Hall. Pick an ornament with the gift you would like to give, mark your name on the gift order sheet, and turn your check into the office or include with your offering. The ornament is yours to keep! **Please follow the detailed instructions next to the tree.**

## Parent Shopping Days

Dec. 9th is the last day to donate unwrapped, new toys, books and other gift items for the Eatonville Family Agency's Parent Shopping Days. You can shop for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, grade-schoolers and/or teenagers. Gift cards in smaller denominations for local merchants are also encouraged.

## Blessing Bag Project

We continue to collect Women's Hygiene Products for Blessing Bags that will be delivered to the Spanaway Food Bank: hand soap, shampoo and feminine hygiene products. Items can be put in the pink box next to the food bank cart.

## From the Food Bank

There is a continuing need for holiday foods for the food bank through December. Examples are: potatoes; yams; cranberry sauce; stuffing mixes; carrots; corn; apples; nuts; rolls; green beans; brownie mix; cornbread mix; dates; evaporated milk; pumpkin; onions; flour; canned berries; and pie crust. We are also collecting winter hats, scarves, and mittens for our food bank clients. We need sizes for women, men, adults, and children. You may knit, crochet, or buy. Please put in the food bank basket (or give to Cathy Keyes).

## Special Announcement

Our youth group director, Sarah Simon, has officially resigned, and she, Chad, and the girls will be transferring from Bethany. Her last day will be Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> as we thank Sarah for her service and wish the family well on their journey. There will be special recognition during the 10:30 service, with a reception in Litzer Hall following the service.

## Thrivent Action Teams

A big thank you goes out to those Thrivent members who have applied for and received Action Team seed money for projects here at church, including Ruth Anderson and Wendy Smitherman. Who can lead an Action Team? All Thrivent members are eligible to lead a Thrivent Action Team. However, the number of teams each member can lead per year depends on his or her membership type. [Benefit members](#) are eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year, and [associate members](#) are eligible to lead one per calendar year. Contact your Thrivent representative for more information, or go online to <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/>.

## General Fund Standing

	October	
	Anticipated	Actual
Beginning Balance		(\$5,774.16)
Receipts	19278	21078.93
Disbursements	19881	19427.51
Ending Balance		(\$4,122.74)
	November	
	Anticipated	Actual
Beginning Balance		(\$4,122.74)
Receipts	17092	17889.09
Disbursements	18300	18505.54
Ending Balance		(\$4,739.19)

## From the Finance Committee

Take a look at the new Financial Fitness board on the table in the narthex. There is a snapshot of each week's income and expenses, as well as the treasurer's report from the previous month. Wendy Smitherman is the council-appointed Financial Secretary (volunteer position), responsible for overseeing the counters and recording income, including donations and all other income to the church. Daleen Haifley is the Bookkeeper (part of her paid position), responsible for paying bills, reimbursements, and payroll. Paulette Van Cleve is the council-elected Treasurer (volunteer position), responsible for presenting financial reports to the council.

## We Pray For ...

- Linda Pempeck - recovering from hip surgery
- Brooke Hansen – (Gary Christensen's niece) on hospice
- Ken Thompson, Obert Estby and Leanne Wells – continuing health problems
- Elijah Green – preparing for brain surgery
- Karen Andrascik and Sandy Cooper – preparing for knee surgeries
- All those suffering from colds, the flu, and other illnesses
- All those who will be traveling during the holidays

## Council Members 2018-19

**Nori Cash**  
(President)

**Nancy Woodward**  
(Vice-President)

**Wendy Smitherman**  
(Secretary)

**Paulette Van Cleve**  
(Treasurer)

**Lisa Olson**

**Deb Noble-Perry**

**Frank Putnam**

**Pastor Janeen Smith**

## Special Thanks

~ **Bethany Connect Program** wishes to shout out a HUGE Thank You to everyone who purchased apple pies for themselves and for the food bank. We were able to deliver 58 pies to the food bank in time for Thanksgiving. Your continued support of the Bethany Connect Program is greatly appreciated.

~ Thank you to all who contributed boxes for **Operation Christmas Child** this year. We had 37 total, plus some were ordered online. It is a goodly amount! You have created a miracle for a needy child, because every shoebox has a story!