

Bethany Lutheran Church

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

"gathered in Christ ..."



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

December Newsletter 2019

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December Worship

Dec. 1st, 8th & 29th
8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Dec. 15th & 22nd
10:30 AM

Sunday School

Sundays, 9:15 AM

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Office Phone: 253-847-8801

Office Email:

bethanychurchlady@gmail.com

Pastor Janeen (Call or Text)

Phone: 253-209-5774

Email: neenigal@gmail.com

Website:

www.bethany-l-c.org

Celebrating Advent/Christmas

The holidays are upon us! See the Calendar of Events on page 3 for a complete list of December Events, but here are a few highlights:

- ★ Decorating the Church
Sun. Dec. 8th, 11:45 AM
- ★ ONE SERVICE Followed by
Christmas Caroling
Sun. Dec. 15th, 10:30 AM
- ★ ONE SERVICE with Christmas Program
Sun. Dec. 22nd, 10:30 AM
- ★ Christmas Eve Services
Sun. Dec. 24th, 4:30 & 7:00 PM

Holiday Bazaar Report

A big thank you to the entire congregation for your patience and flexibility as the church was transformed on Sunday, Nov. 24th into a Holiday Bazaar. Being able to use the entire fellowship hall for vendors made a huge difference this year in both traffic flow and visibility. There were 17 vendors this year, including our four Bethany Vendors: Bethany Connect; the Second Chance Table; Youth Espresso Bar; and the Bethany Quilters' Raffle. The total raised was approximately \$1300, which includes what our Bethany vendors raised, plus a percentage of what our other 13 vendors sold, minus some expenses. The money raised will go into the General Fund to help support all of Bethany's ministries.

Besides being profitable, the bazaar was a great social event. The church was alive with activity not only on Sunday the 24th, but on Saturday, the 23rd, as well. There was a crowd of lefsa makers in the lower kitchen, while other treats were made in the fellowship hall, vendor set up was going on, and music was being practiced in the sanctuary. They were two really fun days for all involved. Thank you to all who helped, who sold, and who shopped!

Senior Social

The Lunch Ladies are busy planning and preparing for a festive December Senior Social. Plan to join them on Thursday, December 19th at noon in Litzer Hall. Besides an amazing lunch, there will be gifts for each attendee. Come in your best "ugly" sweater or your most festive "red" holiday apparel. Please remember the Senior Social's Holiday Outreach, the Family Renewal Shelter, providing essential supplies for the Safe House. Domestic violence can affect a family at any time. Sometimes, they must leave at a moment's notice without any personal belongings. The Safe House provides for these personal needs, and our donations will help to support this very important ministry. All items may be placed in the box in Litzer Hall. See you on Thursday, December 19th.



Senior Social Outreach

The Senior Social Ministry has chosen the Family Renewal Shelter (FRS), as their outreach this year: domesticviolencehelp.org/ The FRS, established in 1986, is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to bringing healing hope and a new life to victims of domestic violence. Safe houses, and eventually relocation to safe living, are made available to families that break away from domestic violence situations. The focus of giving will be on providing essential supplies to the Safe Houses. Items to be collected include, but are not limited to: shampoo, feminine hygiene products, bar/liquid soap, toilet paper, paper towels, liquid dishwasher or laundry soap, Bisquick, cocoa mix. Also, monetary gifts are welcome, as well as pajamas, socks, and stuffed animals. A collection box will be in Litzer Hall. All items will be delivered after the December Senior Social, which will be Thursday, Dec. 19th at noon in Litzer Hall. Thanking all in advance for your support.

Decorating for the Season

On Sunday, Dec. 8th we will be decorating for Advent/Christmas after the 10:30 AM worship service. All are welcome to help!



Bethany Baristas

Christmas Caroling

On Sunday, Dec. 15th, a group will be going caroling after the 10:30 service. Sandwiches will be provided for a light lunch before heading out to spread good cheer at the homes of some of our shut-ins. Every voice is welcome! Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex if you'd like to come. We'll be carpooling, so please indicate if you'd be willing to drive and how many passengers you can take.



At the Holiday Bazaar

What Happened to the Pies???

Hello, from Bethany Connect! I just wanted to give the congregation an update about our annual Plush Pippin Pie sale. For over 25 years the Bethany Connect Program has sold pies just before Thanksgiving and many of you have donated the pies to the food bank (which is a doubly good deal for our fundraiser and for the food bank). However, because of the fire at the food bank, they do not have the ability to distribute the pies at this time, so we are going to postpone the pie project until spring. We will keep you posted on the project and hope that you will be ready to buy, eat and donate pies this spring. Thanks for your support of this project over all these years. ~ Linda King



The "Property" crew taking a break

Food Bank Focus

The "urgent need" for November and December is holiday foods. Examples would be: 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. Thank-you!

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child. We sent 59 boxes this year, including the online ones that we knew about, which is up from 37 last year. You have created a miracle for a child-because every shoebox has a story!

Calendar of Monthly Events

Property Meeting

Tues. Dec. 3rd, 11:00 AM, Library

Burgin Memorial Service

Sat. Dec. 7th, 1:00 PM

Decorating for Advent/Christmas

Sun. Dec. 8th, 11:45 AM

Council Meeting

Tues. Dec. 10th, 7:00 PM, Litzer Hall

Bethany Quilters

Thurs. Dec. 12th, 9:00 AM, Litzer Hall

ONE SERVICE

Sun. Dec. 15th & 22nd, 10:30 AM

Yahweh Yarners

Sun. Dec. 15th, 9:15 AM, Library

Christmas Caroling

Sun. Dec. 15th, 11:45 AM

Senior Social

Thurs. Dec. 19th, 12:00 PM, Litzer Hall

Christmas Program

Sun. Dec. 22nd, during 10:30 AM Worship

Christmas Eve Services

Tues. Dec. 24th, 4:30 and 7:00 PM

Christmas Day

Wed. Dec. 25th, OFFICE CLOSED

Shortened Office Hours

Thur. Dec. 26th, 12:00 – 4:00 PM

We Pray For ...

- Bunny Burgin's Family – as they mourn
- John Fife – recovering from back surgery
- Jerry Krause – recovering from surgery
- Frankie Smith's Family – as they mourn
- Jeannette Kuhlmann – recovering from surgery
- Beulah Parsons – home-bound
- Leanne Wells – vascular parkinsonism
- Obie Estby – ongoing health concerns
- Jamie Lima – liver disease
- Marc Olson –ongoing treatment of ALS

Financial Update

Both the Budget and Finance Committees have been busy evaluating our income and expenses so far this year and working on the budget for next year. We are definitely moving in a positive direction. After making some changes to our budget line items last year, there is further refinement being done for next year's budget to more accurately reflect both our giving and our spending. Budget drafts have gone out to committee and ministry chairs to be reviewed, and council will be looking at the budget at the December meeting. It's been a great year being "the church!"

Directed Giving Options

Below are four different ways you can use "directed" giving, meaning you direct money to a charity of your choice. Please consider Bethany!

Amazon Smile

If you are an Amazon shopper, please be sure to sign up for Amazon Smile and choose Bethany as your charity at: smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0998008. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make using smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. A percentage of your purchases is tallied quarterly and deposited to Bethany!

Fred Meyer Rewards

You can help Bethany earn donations just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card. Fred Meyer donates over \$2 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here's how the program works: Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Bethany Lutheran Church at:

www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards

You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number: BB216. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Bethany earn a donation!

Council Members

April 2019-March 2020

Nori Cash

President

Nancy Woodward

Vice-President

Wendy Smitherman

Secretary

Inez Hollmann

Treasurer

Cathy Keyes

Lisa Olson

Frank Putnam

Pastor Janeen Smith

Thrivent Action Teams

There are two ways you can contribute to Bethany through your membership! One way is through Thrivent Choice. Eligible members can direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars directly to Bethany Lutheran Church.

Visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice for more information.

The other way you can contribute is through Thrivent Action Teams. Eligible members can apply for an Action Kit that includes a \$250 Community Impact Card to benefit a service activity or educational event (like VBS, Bethany Connect, Blessing Bags, Mission Trip, etc.)

For more information go to:

www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/.