

# Bethany Lutheran Church

26418 Mountain Hwy E, Spanaway, WA 98387

“Gathered in Christ”

## September Newsletter 2017



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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### September Hours

#### **Worship**

Sundays, 9:15 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](mailto:bethanychurchlady@gmail.com)

#### **Janeen's Email:**

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

#### **Website:**

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

#### **Facebook Group**

Bethany Lutheran Church

### *“Lord, here I am, send me...”*

All are invited to share in the joy of welcoming and installing Janeen Smith as our pastor here at Bethany. We will celebrate this blessed occasion through worship and with God's Word. Your presence will make this event a memorable experience for Janeen and the congregation!

**Date:** Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017

**Time:** 9:15 AM

**Place:** Bethany Lutheran Church

The Reverend Kim Latterell, Bishop's Associate, will preside at the installation and the Reverend Ron Kempe, Retired Pastor, will preach. A cake and coffee reception will follow the service.

We are excited for this new beginning in ministry and hope that you can join us in the celebration.

While your presence is the only gift Janeen requests, monetary gifts can be given, in honor of the occasion, to Bethany's Seminary Fund to support Bethany's second-year seminarian, Melissa Anderson Trust.



Outdoor Worship 8/20/17

# Bethany Kids

## Youth Group News

**Youth Group Begins** – The first Youth Group meeting of the school year will be Wednesday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM and will continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month. All youth grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> are invited and you are always encouraged to bring a friend.

**Dinners Needed** – If you can help by providing dinner for a Youth Group night, there will be a sign-up sheet on the Youth bulletin board in the narthex. It doesn't need to be extravagant and the youth are not picky!

**Thank You** – to all who gave donations to the Youth Group in memory of Darlene Goddard. The Youth Group is very blessed and so appreciative.



*At the Rainiers Game*

## Idaho Servant Adventures

Greetings from Idaho Servant Adventures!

Thank you once again for participating in this year's Idaho Servant Adventures! We experienced our biggest summer ever, and are so blessed to see God's goodness in action!

For those of you who like numbers, here is a break down of the summer! 690 overall participants, 49 churches registered, 15 states represented, 96 different sites served, and over 13,800 hours of service!

What a "masterpiece" God has created this summer!

Faythe

## Kids' Korner

**Sunday School to Begin** – Registration for Sunday School will be on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> **after** the 9:15 worship service. Look for the registration table in the fellowship hall. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School will continue to be held during the worship time at this point. If you'd like to volunteer, either to teach or be a sub, please contact Michelle Parker.



*Jonah's Baptism*

## Council Members 2017

Jim Haifley  
(President)

Deb Noble-Perry  
(Vice-President)

Nori Cash  
(Secretary)

Jim Erickson  
(Treasurer)

Adaline Pettit  
(Youth Representative)

Frank Putnam

Deacon Janeen Smith

Paulette Van Cleve

Sally Williams

Nancy Woodward

# Holy Happenings

## Senior Social

The Senior Social will resume on September 21<sup>st</sup> at noon in Litzer Hall. Three years ago, the Senior Social began as a time of food and fellowship. God has blessed these gatherings each month.

All are welcome! There is no charge.

Come, meet new friends, greet old friends, have lunch, share life's happenings over a cup of coffee. You never know what the "Lunch Ladies" will cook up, both for food and fellowship.



*Senior Social Fun*

## Hawaiian Vacation Raffle

Living Stone Ministries is sponsoring a raffle to help support their ministry. The winner will receive a personally tailored \$5000 trip to Hawaii: choice of island, accommodations, airfare, activities, and number of travelers, all within the \$5000 limit. Tickets are on sale through Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> for \$10 each or 6 for \$50. Bishop Rick Jaech will draw the winning ticket on Thursday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> at the Synod Office. Please see Sandy Schaefer or Janis Selzler to get your ticket for a chance at this fabulous

## Volunteers Needed

We have lost several volunteers that help with our Sunday services recently. The greatest need is for acolytes, sound technicians, and kitchen helpers. Starting next month, we have only 1 acolyte, 2 sound techs, and 4 kitchen helpers. Many of these people volunteer for other positions as well and it is getting harder to spread out the scheduling. If we had more volunteers for each job, the time commitment would be only once a month at most. Please prayerfully consider helping in one of these areas and be a part of making church happen! Training will be provided. Please call or email the church office if you can help.

## Upcoming Events

**Labor Day, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, OFFICE CLOSED**

**Property Meeting**

Tues. Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, Office

**Bethany Connect Kick-Off Meeting**

Wed. Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM, Litzer Hall

**Bell Choir Practice Resumes**

Thurs. Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 PM, Sanctuary

**Installation & Reception**

Sun. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:15 AM

**Bethany Connect Packing**

Sun. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:15 AM, Classroom

**Sunday School Registration**

Sun. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM, Litzer Hall

**Council Meeting**

Tues. Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, Litzer Hall

**Yahweh Yarners**

Sun. Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM, Library

**Luncheon Bible Study Resumes**

Mon. Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 Noon, Mettler's

**Lord & Ladies Bible Study Resumes**

Tues. Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM, Litzer Hall

**Youth Group Resumes**

Wed. Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM, Litzer Hall



*Gary & Sally Pollock*

# Bits & Pieces

## Devotion: The Messiness of New Beginnings ~ by Inez Hollmann

Like all of you, I go to an imperfect church. I have failed it in innumerable ways, and I've felt the sting of disappointment there, too. But every Sunday that I go, I find Jesus there. I am renewed in tiny or even enormous ways. But mostly, when I look around the room, I see the faces of people that are good, courageous, committed and loving and I cannot imagine doing life without them. They are quite simply the best people I know. The struggles and addictions and losses they have overcome would flatten you - it's just a "little church on the prairie," but it is full of bravery. And they love well. They love each other, they love the staff, they love the community, and they love God. That's enough.

I recently saw this anonymous quote: *"No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending."* I really began to think about that statement. The conclusion was that we don't start over; we begin again right where we are, making things better in our lives.

Now is the time of New Beginnings, not only for Bethany Lutheran Church, but for every day. As a believer in Christ, it is not about saying I will do this and I won't do that and then dropping the idea or falling short. It is more about asking the Lord to help us each day, to live a more pious life, and to fall deeper and deeper in love with Him. This way our focus will be set on the things of heaven and not on all this earthly stuff.

When I say pious or living a life of piety, what comes to your mind? Is it negative? Do you envision someone standing on the street corner thumping their Bible and telling others that they are missing out if they don't know Christ? Or doing things for the church to get noticed and receive praise and adulation? That's not what being pious is about. It is about *building an intimate relationship with Christ*.

If I were to make a resolution, it would be to have a deeper commitment, a deeper love, and a deeper worship for the Lord. Several months ago, He spoke to me in that still small voice in prayer and said, "I am more than enough. I am more than enough in every area of your life." He also said to tell others the same thing. I am determined *to make Him my all in all*. Jesus wants our undivided attention in spite of the distractions and temptations that are waiting around the corner. He has to be our main focus.

How we will end this year will be determined by how we started it. Did we want to get more intimate with Jesus, the lover of our soul? I looked up the word intimacy and the meaning is to be "close, familiar, very personal and private." Your life can be filled with hope and peace. Why should every year be the same as the one before with nothing really changing?

Now is the time of New Beginnings, a new pastor, a fresh look at how you define church. Now is the time to rekindle the love affair with your Lord. He calls us to Himself and says, "Come away, my heart." The real ending in our life will be when Jesus says "Well done, my good and faithful servant." That statement will be for someone who took the time to get to know Him, love Him, and obediently follow Him.

My prayer for you today is that you find church where Jesus is lifted high and people are loved, and plant there with all your might. Our church will be imperfect. The pastor and leaders will not magically make life fulfilling. People will let you down (and you them). Stuff will go sideways and have to be righted. There will be hard conversations and honest confessions, apologies and lots of forgiveness. But the presence of these things doesn't mean you are doing it wrong; it means you are renewing and building a church with human people and you love them too much to let it all slip through your fingers without fighting for unity.

May we find grace for our church today. May we find our tribe and love them hard. I hope that today, or maybe someday, you'll look around the sanctuary like I do and marvel at what beautiful, wonderful people you are surrounded by, grateful that you get to love God and love each other and love people together, imperfectly.

***"NO ONE CAN GO BACK AND START A NEW BEGINNING,  
BUT ANYONE CAN START TODAY AND MAKE A NEW ENDING."***