



Celebrating our life together

Bethany Lutheran Church Annual report 2021



A Reconciling in Christ congregation ■ 206-842-4241 ■ bethanyofbainbridge.org
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MISSION STATEMENT

*To seek to do God's will through joyful outreach near and far,
with hospitality toward all, and with spiritual growth that amazes.*

IN THESE PAGES

A Year of Traditions and Transitions!

Welcome to your 2021 Annual Report! Bethany enjoyed long-time traditions but also experienced some transitions in 2021. While daily life, including life at Bethany, is still affected by the pandemic, the community has remained strong. Bible study groups met. Quilts, schoolbook bags and baby kits were blessed. Advent logs were made.

Our worship transitioned in 2021 from drive-in, to outside on the patio, and finally in-person worship back in our much-loved sanctuary. It felt so good to worship together in sacred space. To sing together. To enjoy coffee together after worship.

2021 also saw the retirement of Rachel Pritchett as church administrator. I am truly blessed to be here at Bethany as your new church administrator. And I am very grateful for all the assistance Rachel gave me as I got started. I am looking forward to 2022 and another year of worship, of traditions and transitions.



— Debbie Rimkus, church administrator

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LEADERS' REPORTS

Pastor: How do you measure a year in the life of Bethany?

By Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers

In April 1996, my sister and I attended the final preview show of the rock musical "Rent" at the Nederlander Theater on Broadway. The next night was its Broadway opening, and the energy was palpable, even when experienced from the very back row of the balcony (where our "rush" tickets placed us).



I have never before nor since experienced such emotion and movement in a dramatic production. We left the Nederlander skipping to the opening tune, "Seasons of Love", and now 25 years later it still thrills me to hear its intro. The musical is a testament to the rawness and reality of life and love in the midst of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

In 2021, the Year of Our Lord 2021, with its own health and community challenges, the questioning refrain holds, "How do you measure a year?" For 2021 we might be tempted to measure:

- + in Zoom calls
- + in distance
- + in masks and vaxes
- + in losses, in misses, in remoteness and strife
- + in 525,600 minutes, how do you measure a year in the life.

But the answer is the same, "measured in love." The love and understanding, the patience and selflessness, the generosity amidst uncertainty, the prayerfulness, the creative connections that have been made and maintained in and through the Bethany community have produced a "season of love." COVID-19 has not defined nor diminished God's people, but has honed our love and faithfulness. Thanks be to God.



LEADERS' REPORTS

President: Moving Forward

By Doug Love, council president

Church Life With COVID. For Bethany Lutheran Church, the 2021 year began much as the 2020 year ended, with worship services in the parking lot and on-line rather than in person in the sanctuary, and preschool only provided on a limited basis on-line. So many people came together to provide parking assistance, ushering, special music, a stage for Pastor Paul and an assistant, a sound system and radio broadcasting. Music was also provided for the on-line services provided in conjunction with Poulsbo First Lutheran Church. People volunteering their time and talents contributed to the success of both the outdoor and on-line services. At the end of 2021, we returned to in-person worship in the Sanctuary in a manner that continued to take the threat of COVID seriously. Hopefully as COVID levels drop in 2022, we will be able to return to unmasked gatherings for worship, fellowship and education. In the fall the Church Preschool returned to in-person classes, albeit with masks and following other COVID protocols. The children and teachers endure the cold weather with many activities outside and windows and doors open for indoor activities.

Faithful Giving. Financially, the Church ended 2021 in the black, thanks to the generous giving of members and visitors. However, the number of people attending and giving has continued to decline (as it has for more than 10 years). The Church's finances have remained healthy due to increases over the years in the average amount being given. However, continued declines in the number of people attending the Church and giving to the Church cannot continue without adversely impacting the Church's operations and ministry. The Council and Congregation will need to take steps to address this issue, including hiring a new Children and Family Coordinator in 2022.

Affordable Housing. The Church's affordable housing task force has been busy trying to identify the scope of the affordable housing the Church can build and offer to eligible individuals and families. In response to a new state law requiring cities to amend their building codes to permit density bonuses for affordable housing provided by religious institutions, the task force began working with the City of Bainbridge Island to determine the increase the City will make available to religious organizations. The City has authorized its Planning Commission to work with the Church on a pilot project to determine the density bonus that could be offered to the Church. This work with the City is intended to determine the Church's options regarding affordable housing. Any decision regarding use of the Church property will require the approval of the Congregation at a Congregational meeting.

Sanctuary Upgrade and Refresh. The Council, a special roof committee and a sanctuary design committee have worked to finalize the changes to be made in the sanctuary to address the condensation problem as well as provide certain updates. Significant aspects of the work include:

1. Removing the ceiling and insulation to determine if any structural support beams have incurred water damage;
2. Putting new, thicker insulation in the ceiling space;
3. Installing a painted, drywall ceiling that will reflect more light and make the Sanctuary brighter;
4. Installing new light fixtures;
5. Painting the walls; and
6. Installing new carpeting.

About \$55,000 has been set aside for this work, but several tens of thousands of dollars in additional funds will need to be raised in order to complete this work. The work is expected to commence in mid-2022 after Congregational approval and fundraising.

Scenes from 2021

While the pandemic continued to be disruptive throughout 2021, Bethany moved carefully towards in-person worship, and continuing favorite traditions.



Bethany Youth help set the course for the crop walk.



Coffee fellowship makes a return.



Readers are back at the lectern.



The altar guild holds its annual cookie exchange.



Bethany children pass out advent candles.



Pastor Paul continued to record weekly messages for children.



The sanctuary Christmas tree is decorated.

MINUTES AND A RESOLUTION

Minutes from the last annual meeting

By Rachel Pritchett, former office administrator

Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021, 11:15 a.m. via Zoom

President Steve Christensen called the meeting to order. Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers gave an opening prayer. Office Administrator and Zoom-meeting Host Rachel Pritchett reported that 73 people were present. (A minimum of 50 is required.), President Steve Christensen determined that a quorum had been attained and that the meeting could go forward. Helen Stoll made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 26, 2020 annual meeting. The motion was seconded and the 2020 congregational meeting minutes were approved.

■ **President's report:** President Christensen pointed to the president's section in the annual report, which addresses the roof-moisture issue. He asked whether there were any questions. There were no questions. He thanked former President Dave Christensen for encouraging him to perform the duty of president. He told listeners that there would be time at the end of each segment for questions.

■ **Pastor's report:** The pastor said he was delighted with the number of people who came to the drive-in worship service before this annual meeting, even though it was pouring rain. Tearing up, he said that it's been a year since his mother, Dorothy Diers, passed away. He acknowledged an outpouring of love. He said his family was very fortunate to have her funeral the weekend before the COVID-19 pandemic closed everything down.

He thanked others for their service in the past year. They included Jeff Jensen, who "made the drive-in service work. For the last year, he has been deeply committed to making this happen." He thanked Allen Lang for building the stage for drive-in worship. He also thanked Christensen for leading the congregation as president for the past year, in his non-anxious and steady way. Sylvia Cauter was thanked for leading the choir during COVID, turning to Zoom for weekly rehearsals. Jennie Harris and all the drive-in ushers were thanked. Preschool Director Katie Drovdaahl was thanked, as was Pritchett, who will retire March 22. Pritchett has launched us into an online presence, and that will be part of the office-administrator position in the future, he said. Lastly, he thanked the Bethany community as a whole during this extraordinary year of the church shutdown, as it continued to demonstrate its centeredness in Christ.

■ **Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Jim Rohrscheib gave a summary of the proposed 2021 ministry budget plan. He restricted his comments to the ministry budget plan found on Pages 26 - 29 of the annual report. He promised the congregation a more detailed financial report covering pages 23 - 30 via e-mail in the coming week. On the income side, loose-plate offerings, other offerings and building-use income all were down about \$7,000, due to the church being closed since March. For budget reasons, he said he is anticipating the church reopening in July, and offerings going up then.

Rohrscheib read the motion associated with consideration of the 2021 ministry budget plan. It reads, "By motion, the Bethany Church Council recommends the Congregation approve a 2021 spending budget of \$417,543."

(Continued on next page.)

On the expenses side, Rohrscheib said that 12 to 13 line items in the budget were less than last year, due to the shutdown. Two new budget lines have been added to the proposed budget. The first, under buildings and grounds, is the roof-risk assessment budget line, for \$10,000. This is to help the Council more clearly decipher what should be done to fix the moisture problem at the least cost to the congregation. The second new budget line was for video production under office expenses. That amount was for \$8,790. That is for addressing expenses related to online filming of services and other web-associated expenses.

Bethany member Whitney Lane asked why the property tax was so much less than previously. Rohrscheib said that the stormwater assessment, previously packaged with the property-taxes statements coming from the county, now are coming directly from the city of Bainbridge Island. The financial impact is a wash, he said.

Christensen called for the vote. The 2021 ministry budget plan passed.

■ **Nominating Committee report/elections:** Christensen thanked David Mueller and Maimu Truitt for their work on the Council. They will join him in leaving the Council. He said that Harry Wetzler and Steve Chupik have agreed to stay on the Council. He thanked members of the Roof Committee. Besides himself, they included Steve Deines, Steve Chupik, Mike Bartunek, Allen Lang and Rachel Pritchett. We've had volunteers to stand as nominees for the Council, he said. They are Vicki Browning, Burton Shields and Stina Peña. Christensen then called for a vote to accept the nominees. The vote passed.

■ **New Business: Ceiling-roof update:** In addressing the problem of condensation on the sanctuary roof, Christensen gave a brief synopsis. He said that in 1963 when the sanctuary was constructed, its roof did not have a venting system in the ceiling. That didn't appear to present a problem when the roof had wood shingles. But when the metal roof was put on, it contained an impermeable membrane. When the presence of people and warm moisture in the sanctuary came in contact with the cold surface of the underside of the roof, it created condensation. The condensation resulted in droplets falling from the ceiling. Moisture also came down the walls and showed up on the beams. We noticed this last March, he said. Bethany hired an architectural firm that specializes in roof-moisture problems. The firm gave three options. The Roof Committee and the Council chose an option. The purpose of the new \$10,000 roof-risk budget line is to do a little more work to define the scope of the work and find the least costly way to fix it. A Zoom meeting at 7pm Feb. 22 will address all of this he said. He invited all who are interested to attend that meeting.

Bethany member Richard Solinsky asked whether the metal-roof installer had any culpability for not bringing up lack of venting as a problem. Christensen said he could not speak to the legality of that, but there was discussion of that at the time. He said Bethany accepted that the roofer did an appropriate job. Bethany did not know that there was no venting, Christensen said. Solinsky asked whether there was a guarantee. Christensen said there was a warrantee of the underlayment and a warrantee for the metal roofing. The warrantee for the underlayment excluded the warrantee if it was a non-vented roof.

■ **Affordable housing:** Christensen called on David Swartling to bring a motion to adopt the resolution included in the agenda. Swartling moved adoption of the resolution in the agenda. Tom Croker seconded the motion. The resolution reads as follows:

(Continued on next page.)

Resolution regarding Possible Path Forward for Affordable Housing

WHEREAS, for many years Bethany Lutheran Church has been considering creation of affordable housing on a portion of its property; and

WHEREAS, an effort was initiated in mid-2020 to chart a potential Path Forward for such an affordable housing project; and

WHEREAS, several donations have been received to create a fund to set the table for presenting a Path Forward proposal to the congregation; and

WHEREAS, the Congregation Council has concluded that consideration of a Path Forward proposal requires additional due diligence and a presentation to an in-person (not virtual) meeting of the congregation, and therefore has appointed a small Task Force to set the table for discussion of a Path Forward proposal at such a meeting, hopefully in the spring of 2021; now, therefore, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the South 40 Affordable Housing Task Force is assigned the responsibility to conduct additional due diligence, engage in conversations with congregational members and others, and otherwise set the table for consideration of a proposed Path Forward on affordable housing on Bethany's property at a special in-person congregational meeting, hopefully in the spring of 2021; and, it is further

RESOLVED, that the South 40 Affordable Housing Task Force is authorized to make expenditures from the Affordable Housing Fund in amounts up to \$5,000, to bring requests to the Congregation Council for authorization of expenditures from the fund in amounts greater than \$5,000, and to make periodic reports to the Council in anticipation of the special in-person congregational meeting.

Swartling gave an overview of the affordable-housing effort. He thanked Christensen, the Council and members of a Bethany affordable-housing task force for allowing the effort to proceed this far. Swartling noted that the resolution is a response to resolutions passed by the congregation in 2017 encouraging early exploration of placing affordable housing on the undeveloped portion of the Bethany campus.

Swartling noted that two events happened in 2020 that helped the effort. The first was passage of a state statute that allows religious organizations density bonus points. At the city of Bainbridge Island level, the rules now are that Bethany could build up to the septic capacity without a zoning variance. "And that's a quantum change," he said.

Swartling said that the proposed resolution is not a substantive plan but an effort to move forward in the spring. Exploratory money will not come from the Bethany operating budget, but rather a fund that has been set up to accept seed money. It now has donations of about \$23,000, he said.

Sonja Selboe asked whether it would be possible for Bethany to collaborate with an ongoing housing effort in the Southwestern Washington Synod. Swartling said that the common agency between Bethany and the Synod is Compass Housing Alliance, part of Lutheran Community Services Northwest.

Christensen called for the question and Barbara Dienes seconded. The resolution passed.

The meeting concluded at 12:04 a.m. with Pastor Paul reciting the Lord's Prayer.

(Continued on next page.)

■ **Addendum (sent as email and part of the official minutes):** Jim Rohrscheib limited his financial report to just a short presentation of the budget found on pages 26-29. At that time he promised a much more detailed report on pledging, giving and spending. The following is his effort to keep the congregation informed of our financial status. In some cases, he will be referring to pages 23-30 of the financial section of the Annual Report.

He noted on page 23 that we received 77 pledges during 2021. This is an increase of one pledge over 2020. A breakdown of those 77 pledges is as follows:

- 23 of the 77 pledgers increased their pledge by a total of \$25,520.
- The highest single pledge increase was \$6,800.
- Also included in the 23 were pledge increases of \$4,000, \$2,000 (from three pledgers) and \$1,800.
- In all 12 of the 23 pledging units increased their pledge commitment by \$500 or more per year.
- 42 of the 77 pledged the same amount as in 2020.
- 5 pledging units reduced their pledge by a combined \$3,540.
- 4 first time ever pledgers made a combined pledge commitment of \$8,940.
- 3 givers made a 2021 pledge commitment after skipping the previous year(s).

The bottom line is that the 77 pledges totaled \$324,516. In 2020 the initial pledge amount was \$301,256 before we conducted a supplemental giving campaign which raised an additional \$25,262.

The median weekly pledge for 2021 is \$53 per week, the same amount as in 2020. The median pledge has declined by \$5 per week since 2019. The average weekly pledge reached the \$81 mark for the first time ever. The number of non-pledgers expected to give dropped from 42 in 2020 to 39 in 2021. The total number of contributors in 2021 is expected to be 116, a decrease of two over 2020 and a decrease of 51 since 2010.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The table continues to be set...

By David Swartling, affordable housing task force member

A year ago, the newly appointed Bethany Affordable Housing Task Force reported that it was “setting the table” for future discussion about the congregation’s vision for affordable housing. While COVID-19 dramatically affected the tentative plans addressed in last year’s report, there have been a number of encouraging developments in 2021 that portend significant progress on affordable housing in 2022. Hence, the place setting continues (and meal preparation may be underway in the not-too-distant future!).



(Continued on next page.)

As indicated in last year's report, the Washington State legislature in 2019 passed SHB 1377 (codified in RCW 36.70A.545), which mandates an "increased density bonus" for religious organizations planning to build affordable housing on their property. Early discussions with the City of Bainbridge Island (COBI) asked the great Lutheran question: "What does this mean?" The early response was that Bethany could receive two extra dwellings, the same as any organization seeking an affordable housing density bonus. Three things happened in 2021 that dramatically changed the situation. First, BI architect Jonathan Davis facilitated a review of the septic system capacity of the South 40; and we learned that it could support two septic systems, not just one. Second, at our initiative, COBI set about to re-examine the preliminary advice provided about the density bonus. Then, in the spring of 2021, COBI staff asked that we make a formal request for an "increased density bonus" to initiate a formal review process. On May 17, 2021, we submitted such a request, and – as described in more detail below – that request was a game changer! Third, we submitted an application to the Northwest Washington Synod for a Grace Grant to pursue the statutory request and to provide funds to move forward with our due diligence. Bethany received the full amount of the requested grant -- \$20,000!

Since these potential game changing events occurred, COBI put Bethany's request for an increased density bonus on the agenda of a City Council meeting in October. Not surprisingly, the topic triggered considerable discussion, and our Task Force inspired dozens of Bethanians and community members to send supporting communications to the City. The result was a referral to the COBI Planning Commission, which is currently considering a draft ordinance that would grant additional dwellings to Bethany as a pilot project to implement the statutory mandate. It also is important to thank the many Bethany members who communicated their support for implementing the congregation's vision. In addition, both Phedra Elliott, Executive Director of Housing Resources Bainbridge (HRB), and Maria Metzler, Executive Director of Helpline House, have publicly endorsed Bethany's request under the Washington statute.

One other potential game changing event occurred in 2021 that could dramatically affect future developments. The COBI City Council last fall met to discuss allocation of more than \$6 million in ARPA funding. It allocated \$3.75 million to affordable housing, and \$2 million was specifically given to HRB for work on its 550 Madison project. The other \$1.75 million remains unallocated, and HRB has indicated that it wants another organization to receive that funding. Depending on what happens with our request for an increased density bonus, and the development of more specific plans to translate the affordable housing vision into a project, Bethany may be in a position to apply for the remaining ARPA funding allocated for affordable housing!

So, the bottom line remains to "Stay tuned"! 2022 could be a game-changing year for affordable housing at Bethany Lutheran Church.

On the web

■ For more information, go to bethanyofbainbridge.org and tap on the Affordable Housing tab at the top.

ALTAR GUILD

Getting back to our roles

By Gail Christensen, outgoing chair

The Altar Guild is an integral part of Bethany's community. The Covid-19 pandemic continued to affect Altar Guild's activities. For most of the year, Bethany continued on-line and drive-in/outdoor worship and resumed modified indoor worship in the fall. Although Altar Guild members prepared flower arrangements throughout 2021 when requested, we did not resume in-person meetings until November. Re-energized, Altar Guild returned to its role of seasonal preparation of Bethany's worship space, coordinating decorations for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. We are particularly grateful for the congregation's generous support of the flower purchases for Easter and Christmas, as well as the weekly flower arrangements that enhanced our worship experience all year. We have resumed setting up the communion elements each Sunday which previously had been handled by Pastor Paul for most of the year. You are invited to join this group...contact Gail: gec40mn@hotmail.com



Officers for 2021-2022

Chair

Gail Christensen

Past chair

Pat Sather

Secretary

Vickie Bech

Treasurer

Barbara Swartling

Scheduler

Nancy Wetzler

Supplies

Barbara Michael

Flowers

Gail Christensen

Altar Guild financial report for 2021

Description	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
Beginning balance Jan. 1, 2021			\$1,799.10
Altar Guild meeting offerings	\$148.00		
Poinsettia (2020) and Flower Fund (2021) donations transferred from Bethany operating account	\$1,995.00		
Total receipts	\$2,043.00		
Reimbursements to AG members for altar-flower expense		\$417.42	
Epiphany 2021 Expenses		-0-	
Easter 2021 Lilies & Flowers		\$434.02	
Christmas 2021 Poinsettias		\$367.06	
Other Expense (Mary & Martha auction item)		\$81.72	
Total disbursements		\$1,209.22	
Ending balance Dec. 31, 2021			\$2,632.88

* Figures are subject to reconciliation with Wells Fargo Bank year-end statement and Bethany's financial database. Report by Barbara Swartling, Altar Guild treasurer

BETHANY OFFICE

Looking ahead. But not too far ahead!

By Debbie Rimkus, office administrator

I think all of us have realized how hard it is to plan in a pandemic. It is a challenge to know what next month might look like, and nearly impossible to know what the year ahead might bring. At the beginning of 2021 I had no idea I would be the church administrator here at Bethany by the end of the year. How glad I am that I didn't plan too far ahead; that I stayed open to the idea of change and unexpected opportunities!



This lesson of not worrying about the future is one that is constantly reinforced in the Bible. The most repeated phrase in both books of the Bible is "Fear not". To be optimistic and open to opportunity in a pandemic is not easy. It is not always easy to trust in God or each other even in 'normal' times. Serving the Bethany community helps me hold onto that optimism and trust. I am so grateful for the warm welcome I received when I joined the Bethany staff, and for all the support given to me as I became familiar with the role.

I am grateful too for the relationships I've built in these past six months – with Pastor Paul, with the preschool, with the Altar Guild and the Rachel Circle, with the church council and the many volunteers. I am looking forward to deepening those relationships in 2022. I'm looking forward to providing even more support to Pastor Paul, the church council and the Bethany community. I'm looking forward to a year of worship and service and celebration. I'm staying optimistic and open to the opportunities that might come along for Bethany. And I'm planning to be here for years to come!

Make Bethany's website a part of your day bethanyofbainbridge.org

Go to bethanyofbainbridge.org to find the following:

- Regular and special worship service times
- Bethany's comprehensive calendar of upcoming events
- Study materials
- Photo galleries
- Links to our partners

BIBLE STUDIES

Women continue to enjoy study and fellowship through Zoom

By Pastor Sonja Selboe

The Women's Bible Study group continues to enjoy fellowship, but this past year mostly via ZOOM. We did have one in-person meeting in December 2021 but returned to ZOOM in January 2022. We began the 2021 year reading and discussing 'SABBATH AS RESISTANCE: Saying NO to the Culture of Now' by Walter Brueggemann. It opened our eyes and hearts to the ways we can and should resist the culture's claim on us. In September we began working through Richard Rohr's "UNIVERSAL CHRIST." Rohr is a mystic, so at times he was a bit difficult to untangle but we managed. We'll be finishing his book in February 2022. We meet the second Monday (at 9:30 a.m.) of each month except during July and August. For now, we'll be continuing to connect via ZOOM until the pandemic releases its hold on the world, or at least on Kitsap County. For more information, call Pastor Sonja at 360-297-1779.



Men meet with Pastor Paul on Tuesdays

The Men's Bible Study meets twice a month on Tuesdays at 8am in the fellowship hall, studying the Gospel texts from the Sundays before and after we meet. In the late summer Pastor Paul provides blackberry buckle for a breakfast treat, and in other seasons the fare is donuts, cereal, and bananas. The main course, however, is the fellowship surrounding our Gospel conversation. During COVID we met more sporadically, sometimes outdoors, but always with distance and masks. In the fall of 2021, the desire was to meet more frequently, so we are convening every other Tuesday for these discussions, and we welcome all who would like to join us.





Canoe weekend to Blake Island, June 2021.

BOY SCOUTS

Bethany's troop continues to be strong

By Doug Dudgeon, chartered organization representative, Troop 1565

With great flexibility, Bethany's Scout troop had a successful 53rd year in 2021. Weekend campouts returned in the spring with masks and socially distanced tent arrangements, and in-person meetings returned indoors to the fellowship hall in September. This year's activities included canoeing, mountain biking, day hikes, backpacking overnights, service projects, summer camp, and, for our older Scouts, a week at the Summit Bechtel Reserve high adventure camp in West Virginia. Thanks to continued community support, Scouts earned \$9,600 from their Christmas tree lot, almost enough to cover the cost of next year's summer camp in Montana.

The troop currently has 31 youth members. Four Scouts reached the rank of Eagle Scout in 2021. The Scouts of Troop 1565 and their families thank the congregation for its gracious, continued support.



Backpacking along the Olympic coast, November 2021.



Annual Christmas tree fundraiser, December 2021.

CARING HEARTS

Our prayers for you have not ceased

By Vicki Browning

The Caring Hearts Committee is a small group that under normal circumstances would meet with Pastor Paul each month to consider those in the congregation who may need some attention. During the COVID time we have not been able to meet so have been dependent on others to let us know when we can be of assistance. When we learn a member can use some help, we reach out to volunteers who are willing to provide transportation to church or to prepare a meal for someone following surgery or during an illness. Sending cards and devotionals to some of our members is also a blessing provided by the committee. We are thankful for the Lay Eucharistic Ministry provided by members of the congregation. This past year much of the outreach has been provided by Pastor Paul as the committee, like most others have not been comfortable away from their own homes. We hope we can get back to meeting monthly, providing the assistance we enjoy providing and seeing everyone in person.



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Thank you for your service in 2021.



**Doug Love,
President**



**Paul Stumme-
Diers,
pastor**



**Vicki Browning,
vice president**



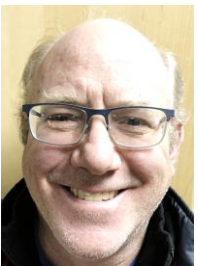
**Jennie Harris,
secretary**



**Jim
Rohrscheib,
treasurer**



Burton Shields



Steve Chupik



Harry Wetzler



Allen Lang



**Ann Howard
Lindquist**



Stina Pena

CROP WALK

Bethany walks the walk; total is \$34,500

By Chris Christensen, Bainbridge/North Kitsap CROP Hunger Walk Team

Once again Bethany Lutheran members demonstrated their care for hunger relief locally and around the world by members raising \$2,755 in donations for the Bainbridge/North Kitsap CROP Hunger Walk. A huge thank you to all who walked, gathered donations, and donated. Our September Walk raised over \$11,500 and with the double matching donation will provide close to \$35,000 for the Bainbridge/North Kitsap CROP Hunger Walk.



IN MEMORIAM



**Carol
Johnson
6/6/21**



Carol Johnson

**Dick Heine
8/9/21**



Dick Heine

**Jennifer
Mueller
11/27/21**

**David Mueller
12/13/21**



David Mueller



The Memorial Garden at Bethany Lutheran Church.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Take time for a moment of silence

By Dick Coar

As always, the Memorial Garden will be open for your moments of silence. Please use it even if it is a little cool. There were four inurnments this year: Carol Johnson, Albert Sievertson, Betty Sievertson and Dick Heine. If you would like to inquire about space, please call the office. There is still need for a gardener-type person to help with naming the heather that is already planted and possibly lead a work party of happy volunteers when needed.

MUSIC

The joy of singing together

By Sylvia Cauter, Music Director

As I reflect on my music director position at Bethany in 2021, what resonates with me is the generous spirit of our members who helped continue our music ministry throughout this challenging time. From the beginning of January, we were scheduling musicians for both online and drive in services that continued throughout the summer and someone always volunteered to share their musical gifts.



September was an exciting month for the choir because we commenced rehearsals in the fellowship hall singing in beautiful harmonies. Considering we were having so much fun being together again we decided to meet at 6:15 PM to share a meal and fellowship before our rehearsals. I hope that as 2022 progresses we will be able to resume with our Wednesday meetings to prepare for Lent and Easter. Thank you, Bethany musicians!



PRESCHOOL

A bustling and happy preschool

By Katie Drovda, director

While we found ourselves (still) in the middle of a pandemic this past fall, we were so thankful for a fully vaccinated staff and a better understanding of how to keep our staff and students safe. We were thrilled to be able to open our doors in September to three classes of students. It's been so wonderful to have the preschool bustling and alive with the play and laughter of students each day.



Among our three classes, we serve twenty-nine families from the Bainbridge Island/Suquamish area. We are thankful we have been able to accommodate and welcome several families who have re-located to Bainbridge Island this year. Additionally, many of our current families have already made the decision to continue at Bethany and re-enroll for next year.

We were sad to say "goodbye" to our beloved Bumble Bee/Firefly Assistant Teacher, Selina Johnson, this year, but we are so thankful she has generously decided to stay on as our very competent and reliable bookkeeper. Selina has served on our staff faithfully since 2008, and we are grateful for all she contributed to our preschool. We're thrilled that she and Gary have been able to get out on many camping adventures since her retirement in 2021.

This year, we welcomed Missy Rehder to our staff as our new Assistant Teacher for the Bumble Bee and Firefly classes. Missy's three daughters all attended Bethany, and we are so happy to have her on our staff. Missy brings an energy and kindness to her interactions with our students that is so impactful.



I am grateful to Allie MacDonald, Rachel Running, Valerie Johnson and Brooke Russell for their continued dedication to the preschool and our students. Our staff is the backbone of our preschool program, and we literally couldn't do without them. It's a gift to be able to witness the ways that they connect with and nurture our students daily.

I am also especially thankful for our Preschool Advisory Board. Pastor Paul, Dede Knapp, Missy Rehder, Vicki Browning, Heather Davies, and Kevin Kelly have been a huge source of support as we continue to navigate the challenges of running a preschool in the context of the COVID pandemic.

Finally, I am thankful for the support of the church which enables us to have such a quality program for students on the island.

(Preschool financials are on the next page.)

Preschool financials

	2020/21 proposed	2020/21 actual	2021/22 proposed
INCOME			
Tuition	\$68,310.00	\$18,421.20	\$68,310.00
Lunch bunch	\$4,160.00	\$0.00	\$4,160.00
Materials fees	\$2,700.00	\$550.00	\$2,700.00
Application fee	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
Registration deposit	\$7,440.00	\$7,055.00	\$7,440.00
Donations		\$734.50	
Interest		\$827.66	
TOTAL INCOME	\$83,610.00	\$29,588.36	\$83,610.00
EXPENSES			
Payroll wages	\$64,000.00	\$24,643.04	\$64,000.00
Payroll taxes	\$4,900.00	\$1,594.99	\$4,900.00
L&I taxes	\$1,500.00	\$217.64	\$1,500.00
Paychecks fees	\$1,000.00	\$1,212.17	\$1,100.00
Insurance	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Phone	\$1,000.00	\$748.17	\$1,000.00
Repairs/maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$405.00	\$1,500.00
Capital improvements	\$1,750.00	\$526.39	\$1,750.00
Supplies	\$3,500.00	\$1,377.54	\$3,500.00
Events	\$1,000.00	\$5.51	\$1,000.00
Student memorabilia	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$650.00
Consultants	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
Donation to church	\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$84,900.00	\$33,980.45	\$84,900.00

Checking account balance: \$20,437.27

Contingency account: \$27,240.82

Certificate of deposit (Tuition advance): \$8,892.54



RACHEL CIRCLE

Continuing on in spite of a pandemic

133 quilts, 53 baby kits and 81 school bags were shipped.

By Carol Fenner, Marlene Orwiler and Alice McCain

Rachel Circle continued on in spite of the pandemic, although on a limited scale. Some of our members have not felt comfortable coming, but we have gotten a lot done, either by those who have been here, or by people working at home. Some of us decided to work through the summer to try to do some catching up.

We were able to ship 59 quilts in May, and another 74 quilts, 53 baby kits and 81 school kits in November. This is almost equal to the usual totals, thanks to the hard work of the women of Bethany and the donations of you members. We sold one quilt this year and used that money to buy a goat for Lutheran World Relief's Good Gifts program. We want to thank Wayne Daley and Randy Weiss for delivering the quilts and kits when Joe Sommerseth was unable to do it.

Rachel Circle, as a group assembled two Cleaning kits for refugees who arrived from Afganastan. We finished off the year with our annual soup lunch, where we all enjoyed soup made by Rachel Circle members, as well as bread and great desserts. It was nice to have a little bit of normal back.

Have you noticed some of the beautiful quilts that have decorated the sanctuary and fellowship hall lately? You may have a chance to own one of them! Watch for more details to come.

Again this year, we want to thank you all for your donations; we couldn't do it without you!

■ **Baby kits:** In the spring of 2021, we shipped 40 Baby kits. In the fall of 2021, 53 more kits were packed. Rachel Circle was pleased we were able to send that many since we didn't meet as often due to the pandemic.

Bethany's congregation is such a blessing; monetary contributions for shipping, and other goods helps fulfill Rachel Circle's mission. Know that you were a part of babies receiving clothing, children receiving school supplies and families receiving quilts!

Thanks to you and thanks be to God!

■ **School kits:** In 2021 Rachel Circle sewing artists and other Bethany members created and filled 81 LWR school bags with needed school supplies for children around the world. This was truly a team project. Alice McCain headed up the effort but couldn't have done it without lots of help – from sewing all those bags, gathering donated supplies, and assembling/filling the bags for shipment in early November. We gratefully received a 2021 Bethany Endowment fund grant of \$500 to help pay for purchasing supplies and shipping in 2021-2022.

(Rachel Circle financials are on next page.)

Rachel Circle financials for 2021

Income

Quilts (Bethany Budget)	\$400.00
Baby kits (Bethany Budget)	\$325.00
Private donation baby kits	\$400.00
Endowment Grant	\$500.00
Return of Merchandise	\$9.78
Rachel Circle Offering	\$88.00
Shipping offering	\$546.00
Total Income	\$2,268.78
Add balance from 2019	\$1,450.34
Thrivent Action Team card *	\$500.00
Total of all funds	\$3,719.12

* Thrivent Action Team debit card not deposited into checking account. (Used to purchase batting, baby items and school supplies.)

Expenses

Batting, clothing, fabric, soap, towels, pins	\$1,087.90
Shipping for quilts, kits	\$767.40
Donation to ELCA to purchase goat	\$50.00
Total of all expenses	\$1,905.30

2021 year-end balance for all Rachel Circle

Balance of quilt fund	\$756.30
Balance of baby kit fund	\$557.52
Balance of school bag fund	\$500.00
Final total	\$1,813.82



Quilt production



Assembling the school bags



Blessing the quilts and kits



Packing the quilts and kits up for shipment

SOCIAL OUTREACH

Bethany continues long legacy of giving

Here's where just some of Bethany's social-outreach and mission funds go, as well as a list of awardees of the Bethany Mission Endowment Fund:

Social outreach and mission

Compass Housing Alliance	\$4,000
Helpline House	\$5,000
Island Volunteer Caregivers	\$1,000
Martha & Mary	\$1,000
Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA	\$42,000
Lutheran Community Services	\$1,000
Faith Advocacy Network	\$1,000
Lutheran Peace Fellowship	\$500
Reconciling Works	\$250
World hunger (ELCA)	\$1,000
Rachel Circle	\$400
Baby Kits (Lutheran World Relief)	\$1,071
Total	\$58,221

Bethany Mission Endowment Fund award recipients

Bethany Affordable Housing	\$1,000
Bainbridge Island Senior Center	\$1,500
Church of Steadfast Love	\$1,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia	\$300
Housing Resource Board	\$2,000
Lutheran Community Services Northwest	\$3,150
LWR School Bags Project	\$500
Martha & Mary Chaplain Fund	\$300
Martha & Mary KIDS Program	\$3,000
Operation Bootstrap Africa	\$2,000
Total	\$14,750

Status of Bethany Mission Endowment Fund

As of Nov. 30, 2021

ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust	\$138,600
Bethany Mission Endowment Fund reserve	\$1,500
Cash value of two insurance policies	\$29,067
Current Bethany Mission Endowment Fund total	\$169,167



When Lutheran Community Services Northwest put out an appeal to help Afghanistan refugees settling in the area, Bethanians and the Bainbridge Community came together to provide cleaning and bathroom kits.



A noisy offering collected almost \$350 for the ELCA Hunger Appeal.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Compiled by Jim Rohrscheib, treasurer

While the number of pledgers has decreased from 110 in 2010 to 70 in 2022, the average pledge has increased from \$61.21 to \$88.25. Overall, the total amount of giving has increased slightly, from \$388,639 in 2010 to \$391,776 expected in 2021. As can be seen in the data below, giving at Bethany remained strong throughout the pandemic. In both 2020 and 2021, actual giving exceeded the expected amount.



The Bethany Church Council is extremely grateful to the congregation for the commitment to our community. Because of you, Bethany has been able to continue worship, Bible study, and other programs. We have been able to support our staff and honor our commitments to the ELCA and partner ministries. And we have been able to budget for 2022 with confidence.

Our deepest gratitude and a huge thank you to all who gave in 2021!

2022

70 pledges were received for \$321,226.
The median pledge is \$55 per week.
The average pledge is \$88.25 per week.
36 non-pledgers are expected to give \$70,550.
106 total contributors are expected to give \$391,776.

2021

77 pledges were received for \$324,516.
The median pledge is \$53 per week.
The average pledge is \$81.02 per week.
39 non-pledgers are expected to give \$57,708.
116 total contributors are expected to give \$382,224. (Actual giving \$390,261)

2020

76 pledges were received for \$301,256.
The median pledge was \$53 per week.
The average pledge was \$76.23 per week.
42 non-pledgers were expected to give \$62,208.
28 givers promised \$25,262 in supplemental giving.
118 total contributors were expected to give \$388,726. (Actual giving \$407,781)

(2021 Balance Sheet is on the next page.)

2021 balance sheet

ASSETS

Current assets

Bethany dedicated funds banked at Wells Fargo	\$154,491	
Bethany general funds banked at Wells Fargo	<u>\$108,844</u>	
Total funds banked at Wells Fargo		\$263,335
Advance Giving		\$3,000
Endowment fund*		

Endowment reserve	\$1,500	
Pooled trust	\$138,600	
Insurance policies	<u>\$29,067</u>	
Total endowment fund		<u>\$169,167</u>

Total current assets **\$435,502**

Fixed assets Building and grounds** \$3,263,000

Total fixed assets **\$3,263,000**

TOTAL ASSETS

\$3,698,502

LIABILITIES

Long-term liabilities

Church mortgage \$269,763

Total long-term liabilities **\$269,763**

Dedicated funds payable

Capital improvement fund	\$55,049	
Columbarium maintenance	\$34,363	
Memorials	\$5,723	
Columbarium engraving liability	\$5,211	
Refugee resettlement	\$350	
Fair-trade fair	\$1,606	
In/out various funds	\$189	
Men's retreat	\$3,242	
Music	\$2,045	
Pastor's discretionary fund	\$695	
Vacation Bible school	\$1,707	
Women's retreat	\$769	
Youth servant event	\$12,156	
Rachel Circle	\$1,571	
South 40 affordable housing fund	\$28,103	
Preschool pass-through	\$1,377	
Altar Guild	\$65	
Adult/family events	\$70	
ELCA LWR & LDR	<u>\$200</u>	
Total dedicated funds payable		<u>\$154,491</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$424,254

EQUITY

\$3,274,248

TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

\$3,698,502

* Note: As of September 30, 2021

** Note: Church Mutual insured value