

# Life Together

**Bethany Lutheran Church's  
e-newsletter  
April 2022**



**Pastor Paul  
Stumme-Diers**

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**Who we are**

Bethany is a  
congregation  
of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America, and is  
Reconciling in  
Christ, open and  
affirming.



**Where to find us**

We are at 7968 Finch  
Road NE, Bainbridge  
Island, WA 98110.

**Sunday Worship**

10 a.m followed by coffee  
fellowship

**Saturday Worship**

5 p.m. followed by wine  
and cheese fellowship.

**Website**

[bethanyofbainbridge.org](http://bethanyofbainbridge.org)

**PASTOR'S ADDRESS**

**Belting out Alleluia!**

*By Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers*



Dear Bethanians,

When our daughter, Maren, studied in Chile during a semester in college, Laurie and I traveled to Chile along with some friends to visit her there. We arrived during Holy Week, and so I walked to the local Lutheran Church to attend worship on Easter Sunday. It was a historic church there in Valparaiso, obvious by its architecture that it has a strong German influence. Indeed, German script adorned the inside walls of the sanctuary, most likely including the words "Ein Feste Burg" (A Mighty Fortress).

When the worship began, I had little comprehension of what was being said, other than guessing at familiar liturgical calls and responses. It sounded foreign to me because, being in Chili, the worship was of course conducted in Spanish. And then we got to the great Easter hymns, again familiar in their tunes, but difficult for me to shape the words...until we arrived at the "ALLALUIAS". It was then that I belted out with all the gusto I could muster, "Alleluia!" That is the universal language of Easter. In the midst of things that seem so foreign, "ALLELUIA!"

*(Continues next page)*

## Council leaders



Vicki Browning,  
president,  
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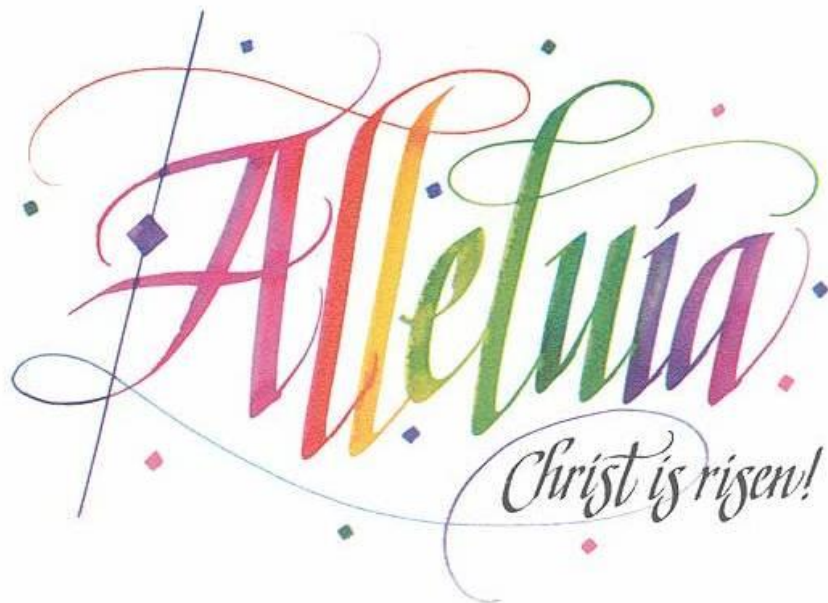
### Belting out Alleluia: *Continued*

That memory returned to me as I consider this Holy Week into Easter. Although we reside in our familiar country, mostly surrounded by a familiar language, when not delightfully enriched by the beauty and diversity of other languages, it can feel like a foreign time to many of us: The unsettledness of “coming out of” the pandemic is very real; the political rhetoric that is so raw and often-times mean-spirited puts us on edge; the war in Ukraine makes us off-balance, to say the least. Such language is foreign, and we wait for the hopeful, the true, the loving.

And so may we belt out this Easter, as though it comes in the midst of injustice, as though it also involves betrayal, as though it comes to us in the midst of fear, as though it is a direct response to death...let us, with gusto, sing out with our voices, and indeed our very being, “Alleluia! Christ is Risen!”

And then, let us incline our ears to hear the voice of Jesus, as he speaks to his followers in the locked room: “Be not afraid. Peace be with you.”

*Pastor Paul*



## **WORSHIP AT BETHANY**



### **Passing the Plate**

Bethany will resume our in-worship offering, passing the offering plate, starting on Easter weekend. We have, of course, suspended this practice because of Covid precautions, but now will reinstitute it as an important part of our liturgy. Many thanks to the Bethany community for your faithful giving throughout the pandemic, finding ways to give generously to Bethany even when it was not the plate being passed in worship. Now we can more fully dedicate these offerings as a part of our worship, and express our gratitude in a more robust manner...as a community in worship, giving thanks.

### **Holy Week**

Welcome to Holy Week, when we immerse ourselves in the story of God's deep and abiding love for us made known in Jesus. Join us for our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter worship services throughout this week. The past two years were somewhat muted by Covid in our ability to gather to rehearse this love story, and yet the story itself perhaps has taken on an extra meaning in light of such challenges. This year, the gatherings and much of the ritual returns, to enhance our experience of this story. Come and join us, and invite your friends and neighbors, as we share this love story with a world yearning to hear it.



#### **Holy Week Worship**

**Palm Sunday – 5pm, April 9<sup>th</sup> & 10am, April 10<sup>th</sup>,  
followed by coffee fellowship**

**Maundy Thursday – 7pm, April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Good Friday – 7pm, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter Eve – 5pm, April 16<sup>th</sup>, followed by wine  
and cheese fellowship**

**Easter – 10am, April 17<sup>th</sup>, followed by coffee  
fellowship**

## **BETHANY TRANSITIONS**

**Moved:** Louise Urness to Seattle

### **A THANK YOU NOTE**

March 22, 2022

My dear friends at Bethany,

I have read all your cards and cherished your farewell expressions and your hugs. Thank you again.

I am living with my daughter Alouise in Seattle and am getting to know the Columbia City Church of Hope near my new home. My son Joshua has offered to drive me to church at Bethany from time to time and I look forward to worshipping with you again soon.

With fond remembrances,

Louise Urness

## **BETHANY NEWS**

### **Upcoming Bible Study**

The Rachel Circle Bible Study group will meet on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. The Men's Bible Study group will meet on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, and April 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am in fellowship hall. The Women's Bible Study group will meet on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the fellowship hall.

### **Upcoming Confirmation Class**

The confirmation class will meet on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, and April 25<sup>th</sup>. We will use the outdoor luncheon area at Woodward for our February meetings. Come dressed for the weather!

### **Sign Up for Altar Flowers**

Soon the altar will be graced with beautiful Easter lilies, and they will be a welcome sight after this time of Lent. Beginning in May, the congregation once again has the opportunity to provide altar flowers in recognition of a special person or event. Select either A - you will provide the arrangement, or B - altar guild will do the arrangement and you will provide the check [there is an envelope to put the money in by the calendar]. Questions? Email Gail Christensen [gec40mn@hotmail.com](mailto:gec40mn@hotmail.com).





## Silent Auction of Three Quilts

Rachel Circle will be auctioning the three quilts on display in the fellowship hall beginning April 2 through April 17 (Easter Sunday). Get your bid in soon! Bid sheets are on clipboards in the fellowship hall. Once you've made a bid, feel free to keep an eye on the bid sheets and make additional bids. Proceeds will be given to Lutheran World Relief. Questions? Email Gail Christensen [gec40mn@hotmail.com](mailto:gec40mn@hotmail.com).





## A Bethany Quilter's Story

Gladys Schulz, the quilter, has a history of always loving sewing beginning as a young girl. She started with making her own clothes as a youngster, even creating outfits for her little sister. She learned sewing from her mom, as well as an outstanding 9<sup>th</sup> grade sewing teacher.

The tale of quilting began more than sixty years ago when her young family moved into a small home. She needed blankets for the kids' bunk beds but had no money for that. Her mom gave her some old, worn blankets. With a basket of scraps, she pieced together a covering for the blanket and sewed it on. This was her first experience.

Next was twenty-four years later when she wanted to make a quilt for a wedding gift. Slowly, but surely, she made progress. But she realized that starting smaller was better so baby quilts were next on her list. Mind you, she was tying the quilts as machine quilting wasn't in use for home projects. Later, she began to quilt by hand.

Her friend, Kathy, wanted to learn about quilting. Soon they were attending Kitsap Quilters which had Gladys thinking, "I can do that!" It was inspiring. With Kathy, she began attending some of the lectures on quilting. Her first blue ribbon was a joint project with Kathy. Kathy pieced the material and Gladys, with Kathy's encouragement, machine quilted it. They were on their way!

Kathy encouraged Gladys to continue machine quilting which was no easy endeavor with a regular sewing machine. Eventually, she used a portable long arm in which she had to walk and shuttle the pedal. Not easy! Her husband, Ralph, built her a table long enough for the long arm.

Now she has a real long arm machine which has a laser printer, so she can be very creative with the various quilting design stitches. Gladys leans more to the modern style of quilting now as opposed to the traditional. Gladys still participates with the Rachel Circle quilters, making tops for the group. Gladys worked on all three quilts being auctioned by Rachel Circle.

Her advice is to start small – think baby quilts or place mats. Have fun putting the colors together. One of the beautiful aspects of quilting – there is no wrong design or way to do it!



## **CHILDREN AT BETHANY**

### **Children's Sunday Morning Programs**

Children's Sunday morning programming made a return in March with a series of Prayer and Pancake breakfasts and as well as a few 'treasure hunts' centered on Bible stories with our Lenten theme of Lost and Found. The Sunday morning children's program will take a break for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday so that families can experience these special worship services together. Sunday School for children will return on April 24, when we hope to explore themes around gardening, weaving and prayer.

### **Bethany Preschool Enjoys Spring**

The preschool is bustling with energy and excitement as our students continue to explore and learn. We've been enjoying the blossoms on the "popcorn" trees, exploring the orchard, and digging in the garden to get it ready for Spring planting.

As COVID numbers have declined, we've made masks optional outdoors and have loved getting to see our students' smiles as they run and play each day.

Looking ahead to the fall, enrollment is strong, and we have several spots available in our Grasshopper (4-5 year old) and Bumble Bee (2.5-3 year old) classes. If you know any families who are looking for a nurturing, engaging environment for their children to learn and grow, please encourage them to get in touch with Katie at [preschool@bethanyofbainbridge.org](mailto:preschool@bethanyofbainbridge.org) or 206-780-7752.



## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE**

### **The Odyssey Continues!**

In March, the COBI Planning Commission met twice – on March 10 and March 24. Both were marathon meetings that included hours of discussion addressing a draft ordinance for Bethany that would implement the request for an “increased density bonus” granted to religious organizations constructing affordable housing on their property under a 2019 Washington statute (RCW 36.70A.545). Much of the discussion involved whether the ordinance should address only Bethany or if its provisions should seek to apply throughout the Island. (Note that the City Council requested a “pilot”!) There also were many proposed amendments discussed, but the current formula that would allow up to approximately 20 units on Bethany’s property remains in place. Also, some problematic conditions/criteria were removed, which was an encouraging development. In addition, the support of the Executive Directors of HRB, Helpline

House, and the Bainbridge Community Foundation, as well as emails of support from many members of Bethany and community members at large (including the governor!) have been enormously important! Thanks to all who have voiced their support!

The next Planning Commission meeting will be on Thursday, April 14 (Maundy Thursday). It is possible that meeting will see adoption of a draft ordinance and a referral back to the City Council for action. That would mean that the Council would take up the ordinance, probably in the May time frame. You can learn more about the issues being addressed by the Planning Commission by reviewing the meeting packet for the meeting on March 24; the next packet should be distributed on April 8 or 9. These are (or will be) on the City of Bainbridge Island website and can be found here: [City Council & Planning Commission Agendas, Minutes & Meeting Videos | Bainbridge Island, WA - Official Website \(bainbridgewa.gov\)](https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/).

Stay tuned!

## **THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

### **Compass Housing Alliance UnGala**

Stay Home. Stay Comfy. Stay Generous!

You are (not) invited to the Compass Housing Alliance UnGala! The Compass Housing Alliance can't wait to gather with you next year, yet still needs your support this year!

Look at it this way:

Just make a donation to Compass for what you would have normally spent on a big, fancy Gala! That way you will get the evening to yourself while still supporting the critical services that our community needs. Oh! **John and Mary Douglas have put forth a challenge of \$75,000!** To donate, visit <https://www.compasshousingalliance.org/ungala/>





## **THE GREATER CHURCH**

### **From the Bishop**

***Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee***



One of the things I love about living in the Pacific Northwest is the abundance of life. In January, the grass is green. In February, plants are blooming. In March, little flowers are pushing through the soil. In April, color bursts out everywhere. To me, these signs of life are miracles.

And don't we need some of these signs right now? I mean, there are so many places where it feels like ongoing winter – the discord and acrimony amongst families, churches, peoples, and nations. As I write this article Russia is invading Ukraine. Perhaps when you read this article, things will be different but at this moment there is bombing and shooting and fear and death. And entrenched crises continue: houselessness, racism, ableism, unjust governments, and so much more. Individually, many are experiencing physical and mental illness, fatigue, and exclusion. I remember a quote from C. S. Lewis' book *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* where one of the characters says, "It is winter in Narnia, and has been for ever so long...always winter, but never Christmas."

It has been a long winter...perhaps even two years of winter. Pain and sorrow and death feel very close. There is grief; there is anger; there is exhaustion; and there is sadness.

And yet...And yet...

Gardens are full of seeds. Farmers are tilling the soil. Tulips are blooming. Rhododendrons are on their way. We see signs around us that winter is ending and the Bringer of Spring is coming.

As I travel through this synod, I see signs of new life and new hope. I see resolve and new partnerships. While there are challenges that we are all facing, while there is much work to do individually and together, I sense new possibilities.

When I meet with councils and other leaders in congregations, I am delighted that we are having good, strong, sometimes difficult conversations about things that matter. In our best moments, we are not as concerned about smaller difficulties but instead, as people of faith, we are leaning into what it means to love God and love neighbor in this time and in this place. I thank God for the opportunity for conversation, listening, and moving on the Breath of God's Spirit.

The truth is, alone – we cannot create life, alone – we cannot change systems, alone – we cannot move winter into spring. But *through Christ*, through the One who died for this world and who is raised into new life, we can.

And so, as it is written in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians:

*We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.* 2 Corinthians 16-18

We are promised that through this time, through world events, through whatever is next, Jesus is with us. And even more than that, we are promised that there is something amazing beyond all measure – more than we can know or even imagine. It is difficult to sometimes comprehend this promise – especially when we look at the destruction and pain and devastation in this world – and yet...and yet...we cling to the promise. As people of faith, we pray and whisper and shout it out – that through Christ's death and resurrection all things that create death will be gone. Period. Full. Stop.

And because of knowing and trusting this promise, we are then called, as beloved children of God, to see, appreciate, and tend to the small plants entrusted to us – knowing that we also are plants, also seeds, also soil, called to live into and share this new life with and for others.

May this Easter spring forth with new life for you. May you feel the hope given through Jesus. And may together we shout, "Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!"

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee  
[bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)

## Support for Ukraine

Lutheran World Relief continues to provide support for Ukraine families who are leaving behind everything they own and fleeing for their safety. They need immediate aid including food, water, shelter, clothing and medical care. Your emergency gift will deliver urgent support and care, like critically needed items for families who fled their homes, and medicine and supplies for clinics. Visit the LWR website to donate: <https://lwr.org/>

Lutheran Community Services Northwest is also preparing to resume welcoming Ukrainian refugees to the Northwest when federal plans for this humanitarian crisis solidify.

However, this is a matter that will be decided by the United States government. LCSNW organization has no control over who leaves Ukraine, where they will go, and when. There is no official information yet about the adoption of any special U.S. program for accepting refugees resulting from the Russian invasion. LCSNW will update their website as more information becomes available. Donations in support of refugee resettlement efforts can be made by visiting: <https://lcsnw.org/>





## April

Ed Noland	4/1	Sundi Stauffer	4/9	Georgia Hansen	4/17
Shannon Noland	4/1	Kathy Dudgeon	4/10	Karen Kushner	4/18
Randy Weiss	4/1	Brit Lindquist	4/11	Gavin Jakubik	4/21
Rachel Running	4/2	Andy Rimkus	4/12	Renzo F. Lucioni	4/24
William Hansen	4/3	Gail Christensen	4/14	Myrna Johnson	4/24
Dale Johnson	4/3	Peter Bang-Knudsen III	4/15	Dianne Peeples	4/25
Louise Urness	4/4	Nathan Johnson	4/16	William Bang-Knudsen	4/28
David Swartling	4/7			Signe Lindquist	4/29

## May

Mary Jensen	5/1	Nancy Miles	5/16	Steen Christensen	5/24
Marlene Orwiler	5/3	Helen Stoll	5/16	Renzo P. Lucioni	5/25
Doug Love	5/4	Gary Bech	5/17	Chiara Johnson	5/26
Valerie Johnson	5/9	Gary Johnson	5/17	Marit Ellerby	5/28
Angela Lucioni	5/9	Carolyn Weiss	5/17	Petra Ellerby	5/28
David Peeples	5/10	Alan Orwiler	5/18	Dennis Harris	5/29
Stina Pena	5/11	Debbie Rimkus	5/19	Lars Erickson	5/30
Kaye Hansen	5/15	Brett Dudgeon	5/20	Jennie Harris	5/30
Michele Shields	5/15	Mia Christensen	5/24	Margot Jacobs	5/31

(April calendar on back page.)



# The Month Ahead

April 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> <i>Noon AI Anon, FH</i>	<b>2</b> 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship
<b>3</b> 10:00am Worship followed by coffee fellowship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00am Rachel Circle Bible Study followed by Quilters  6:30pm Amabile Choir	<b>6</b> Noon Altar Guild Lunch  6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper  7:00pm Bethany Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>Noon AI Anon, FH</i>	<b>9</b> 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship
<b>10</b> 10:00am Worship followed by coffee fellowship	<b>11</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study  2:00pm Confirmation Class, Woodward  7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH	<b>12</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study  10:00am Quilters  7:00pm Council Meeting  6:30pm Amabile Choir	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Bethany Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Noon AI Anon, FH</i>	<b>16</b> 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship
<b>17</b> 10:00am Worship followed by coffee fellowship	<b>18</b> 7:15pm Boy Scouts, FH	<b>19</b> 10:00am Quilters  10:15am Preschool Chapel  6:30pm Amabile Choir	<b>20</b> 10:20am Preschool Chapel  7:00pm Bethany Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Noon AI Anon, FH</i>	<b>23</b> 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship
<b>24</b> 10:00am Worship followed by coffee fellowship  1:00pm Bainbridge Youth Orchestra Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 2:00pm Confirmation Class, Woodward  7:15pm Boy Scouts, FH	<b>26</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study  10:00am Quilters  6:30pm Amabile Choir	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Bethany Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <i>Noon AI Anon, FH</i>	<b>30</b> 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship