

Life Together

**Bethany Lutheran Church's
e-newsletter
February/March 2022**



**Pastor Paul
Stumme-Diers**

pastorpaul@bethanyofbainbridge.org
Office: 206-842-4241

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.

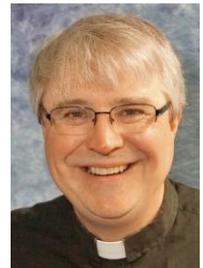
Website

bethanyofbainbridge.org

PASTOR'S ADDRESS

Reflections on Loss and Discovery

By Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers



Dear Bethanians,

The past two years have been unsettling in many ways as we have traversed through the Covid-19 pandemic. Included in this unsettledness are many things that we have lost, occasions that we have missed out on, relationships that have been required to take a different shape, communications that have needed to adapt, appearances that have taken on a different quality because of masks, zoom, and aging. We have our lists of these losses, long lists of things we lament and wonder if somehow we will ever be able to recover.

At the same time I am wondering about the lists of new discoveries that have been observed in the past two years, new learnings, orientations that might have changed for the better. Perhaps they are necessary accommodations because of a loss, perhaps they are new adventures made possible by not being weighed down by the old, or maybe enlightened insights by the challenges before us.

For this Lent, I invite the community of Bethany to write Lenten reflections on the theme of "lost and found" as you have experienced it of late. Name a loss, and in a paragraph or two speak to the impact of that loss. Then, in equal space, share a new discovery found during this season of Covid, and what it means to you going forward. Perhaps what is lost and what is found are seemingly unrelated but together they represent a movement through this time.

(Continues next page)

Council leaders



Vicki Browning,
president,
vickibrowning@
comcast.net



Lynn Nordby,
vice president,
lknordby@
msn.com



Jennie Harris,
secretary,
dgh4653@msn.com



Jim Rohrscheib,
treasurer,
jrohrscheib@
juno.com

Worshipping Faithfully: *Continued*

In the Lenten season of the church, we move toward Holy Week, with its losses, including arrest, persecution, betrayal, denial, and crucifixion...insurmountable losses. And then we arrive at Easter, and the discovery by the women of the empty tomb. The losses remain, but a new discovery now accompanies them, and the journey is one where we are accompanied by Jesus.

We are looking for submissions for a Lenten Devotional based on the theme of Lost and Found. We would like to receive these submissions by Sunday, February 20th, if possible, at the church office. Included in the Bethany 2022 Lenten Devotional will be Scriptural stories about "Lost and Found", including:

Parables: The Prodigal Son
 The Lost coin
 The Good Shepherd

Stories: Jacob and Esau – Lost Siblings
 Joseph, the Egypt Saga
 Jesus, the Cross and Resurrection

For many of these Bible stories, the punctuating sentiment is "Rejoice with me, for what has been lost is found." While every story of loss does not end with rejoicing, perhaps we can rejoice in the small victories we discover along the way, and moreover in the final victory that is ours at Easter.

Pastor Paul



WORSHIP AT BETHANY



Saturday Worship, Sunday Worship and Fellowship

The Saturday 5pm service and the coffee fellowship for the Sunday morning service will be suspended for the remainder of February. The Saturday 5pm service followed by wine and cheese fellowship will return beginning March 5. Coffee fellowship after the Sunday morning worship service will also return in March.

The Season of Lent

We enter the Season of Lent with Ash Wednesday, this year on March 2nd. Bethany will offer a service, including the imposition of ashes at 7pm in observance of Ash Wednesday. All are welcome.

Then, each Wednesday in Lent, a simple soup supper will be offered at 6pm in the fellowship hall. Are you able to help by bringing a soup or bread to share? Look for the sign up sheet on the hallway bulletin board.



March Worship

Ash Wednesday – 7pm March 2nd

Saturdays – 5pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship

Sundays – 10am Worship followed by coffee fellowship

Wednesdays – 6pm Simple Soup supper (March 9 – April 6)

FROM THE COUNCIL

2022 Annual Meeting

The 2022 Bethany Lutheran Church Annual Meeting was held via Zoom on Sunday, January 30 after the 10am worship service. Council President Doug Love opened the meeting and a quorum was declared. After an opening prayer from Pastor Paul, the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes were approved. Pastor Paul and Doug Love both offered remarks. Treasurer Jim Rohrscheib gave a presentation on Bethany's current financial status and the proposed 2022 budget. After a brief discussion, the budget was approved. The financial report was followed by the election of new council members and the election of 2022 nominating committee members. Lynn Nordby and Kristi Sutton were approved for a first term on church council and Allan Lang was approved for a second term. Linda Newlon, Wayne Daley, and Kristi Sutton were approved as 2022 Nominating Committee members. David Swartling next gave a brief update on the status of Bethany's Affordable Housing project.

The highlight of the meeting was the following resolution offered by Pastor Paul, giving special recognition to Bethany volunteer.

A RESOLUTION IN CELEBRATION OF JEFF JENSEN

WHEREAS, Jeff Jensen has served the Bethany community with dedication and expertise over many years, enriching our life together; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Jensen, in doing so has participated in and led the world renowned Bethany Brass; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Jensen has supported the bass section of the Bethany Choir, both with his voice and spirit; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Jensen is always a fixture at the Bethany Men's Retreat, most often around the beer kegs; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Jensen along with his wife, Mary, have organized and participated in numerous talent shows and musical productions here at Bethany; and

WHEREAS, Jeff has willingly and expertly taken on numerous facility and maintenance projects around the Bethany compound; and

WHEREAS, in particular Jeff Jensen has taken on the monumental task of planning and executing a plan for our drive-in worship during this season of COVID, including the development of a sounds system in the Bethany parking lot, AND establishing an FM transmitter for in-car worship that has been used by hundreds of worshippers; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Jensen developed and carried out a plan to make our patio area at Bethany usable in inclement weather, by erecting two large canopies, creating an area used daily by our Bethany Preschool, and for summertime worship.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Jeff Jensen, being on of Sound Mind and Body, today honored by Bethany Lutheran Church as the Master-Mixer, the Boss of Brass and Bass, and the Ultimate Bethany Roadie. We give him thanks for his many gifts, and the generous ways he shares them.

The resolution was resoundingly approved by unanimous applause. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

BETHANY NEWS

Upcoming Bible Study

The Rachel Circle Bible Study group will meet on Tuesday, March 2nd at 10:00am. The Men's Bible Study group will meet on Tuesday, February 22nd, March 8th and March 22nd at 8:00am in fellowship hall. The Women's Bible Study group will meet on Monday, March 14th at 9:30am via Zoom.

Upcoming Confirmation Class

The confirmation class will meet on Monday, February 28, March 14 and March 28. We will use the outdoor luncheon area at Woodward for our February meetings. Come dressed for the weather!

Please Sign Up Now For Altar Flowers

While we will not have altar flowers during the Season of Lent, there are plenty of dates available after Easter. Please sign up for the special date that you would like to honor an event or remember a special person while you have a choice. 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.



Don't Forget!

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 13th. Don't forget to set your clocks *ahead* one hour before heading to bed on Saturday, March 12th.

THE GREATER CHURCH



From the Bishop

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

I don't usually write about personal things for this monthly column, but I have a birthday this month (it is not a significant birthday – it doesn't end in a zero or a five) but a birthday is a birthday. And a birthday is always a blessing – it is a marker that we are still given time on earth to be with loved ones, work to make this world more livable and loveable for others, learn and grow, listen and speak, play and dance in God's Spirit of love.

I remember a significant birthday ten years ago that I celebrated. It was a very low-key birthday. My parents and my family were there. We had some sort of food that I don't remember and a cake that was probably chocolate. That was it. But I was so thankful to be celebrating it. You see, in the summer of 2011, I was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. I underwent chemotherapy, a bilateral mastectomy, and radiation. In February of 2012 I had finished chemo and surgery and was just beginning radiation. (I am perfectly healthy now.)

This is what I wrote on my blog on www.mylifeline.org exactly ten years ago:

The other day I was complaining to some friends that it is hard for me to get motivated. I said, "I am not a depressed person but it is so hard to do things right now." My friend Laura said to me, "Maybe it's because you are battling cancer and have had months of toxic drugs, major surgery, forced work leave, a little too much mortality staring you in the face and no hair or eyelashes. Personally I think that's enough reason to feel what you are feeling."...

Today I re-read what my friend Laura said and her words hold true for me and for so many of us right now. For many it is hard to be motivated and do things right now. We have had months – years! – of a pandemic, political divide, anxiety, forced separation, and, for some, physical and emotional difficulties as well. It makes sense that we are weary. And we can give ourselves and others compassion during this time. And ... at the same time ... we also know this is not the end. Here is how I ended my reflection from ten years ago:

As I close this blog post, I am reminded of the passing of seasons and the amazing presence of God. When I began treatment, summer was in full bloom. We have gone through the falling leaves, the dormancy of winter, and are now on the cusp of spring. This is where I feel my body is, too. I am ready to live a new life of health and wholeness, hope and gratitude. Psalm 30:11-12 says it so well: You have turned my morning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you for ever.

May we rest and may we breathe.

May we live and move and dance in the Spirit.

May we trust that through all things God is present with us – above us, beneath us, before us, and behind us.

May this year bring us resiliency and hope.

May we – *together* – be filled with Christ's love and compassion for one another and ourselves.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

bishop@lutheransnw.org



February

Zachary Shields	2/1	Ralph Schulz	2/4	Willa Bang-Knudsen	2/17
Laurie Stumme-Diers	2/1	Hal Cook	2/6	David Beck	2/18
Sue Brown	2/3	Birgit Davis	2/6	Annabella Fenner	2/26
Sheila Jakubik	2/4	Michael Bartunek	2/7	Judy Roman	2/28
		Carolyn Hart	2/14		

March

Mabel Keeney	3/3	Cheryl Bartholomew	3/8	Jennifer Weaver	3/22
Gustavo Pena	3/3	Marcus Carlsen	3/9	Marcy Daley	3/24
David Noland	3/6	Lynn Nordby	3/10	Kristi Sutton	3/25
Vikki Anderson	3/7	Sienna Christensen	3/12	Abbie Love	3/26
Laurie Solinsky	3/7	Karen Watson	3/17	Ric Becker	3/28
		Jim Rohrscheib	3/29		

(March calendar on back page.)

The Month Ahead

March 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00am: Rachel Circle Bible Study followed by Quilters 10:15am: Preschool Chapel 6:30pm Amabile Choir	2 10:20am: Preschool Chapel 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	3	4 Noon: Al Anon, FH	5 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship
6 10:00am: Worship followed by coffee fellowship	7 7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH	8 10:00am: Quilters, FH 7:00pm: Council Meeting 6:30pm Amabile Choir	9 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00pm: Bethany Choir	10	11 Noon: Al Anon, FH	12 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship
13 10:00am: Worship followed by coffee fellowship	14 9:30am: Women's Bible Study, FH 2:00pm: Confirmation Class, Woodward 7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH	15 8:00am: Men's Bible Study 10:00am: Quilters 10:15am: Preschool Chapel 6:30pm Amabile Choir	16 10:20am: Preschool Chapel 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00pm: Bethany Choir	17	18 Noon: Al Anon, FH	19 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship
20 10:00am: Worship followed by coffee fellowship	21 7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH	22 10:00am: Quilters 6:30pm Amabile Choir	23 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00pm: Bethany Choir	24	25 Noon: Al Anon, FH	26 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship
27 10:00am: Worship followed by coffee fellowship	28 2:00pm: Confirmation Class, Woodward 7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH	29 10:00am: Quilters 6:30pm Amabile Choir	30 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00pm: Bethany Choir	31		