

Life Together

**Bethany Lutheran Church's
e-newsletter
January 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

PASTOR'S ADDRESS

Worshipping Faithfully

By Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers



Dear Bethanians,

Every conversation I have these days seems to include a litany of people, usually family members of those with whom I am speaking, who have experienced contracting COVID-19. It feels very different than it did before Christmas, when such connections seemed much more remote and infrequent. It seems, regrettably, to thrust us back into a defensive posture in terms of the way Bethany needs to respond to this new threat.

Yes, the Omicron variant, while extremely contagious, seems as though it is considerably more mild than the Delta variant with which we had previously contended. And, yes, this has resulted in fewer hospitalizations and deaths by similar comparison. But to hear that Brother George or Aunt Mildred or Nephew Huey has COVID-19 is startling and worrisome, even with such a milder form, especially as I hear from those who experienced/are experiencing harsh symptoms.

Today, guidelines came to us from the NW Washington Synod, advising extra care in worship practices if conducted in-person. Fortunately, we have already been observing these measures for the most part. (On a side note, the Bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod today is advising congregations there to suspend in-person worship for the next 4-6 weeks. I'm so glad to be here on Bainbridge Island, WA...)

(Continues next page)

Council leaders



Doug Love,
president,
doug.love@
klgates.com



Vicki Browning,
vice president,
vickibrowning@
comcast.net



Jennie Harris,
secretary,
dgh4653@msn.com



Jim Rohrscheib,
treasurer,
jrohrscheib@
juno.com

Worshipping Faithfully: Continued

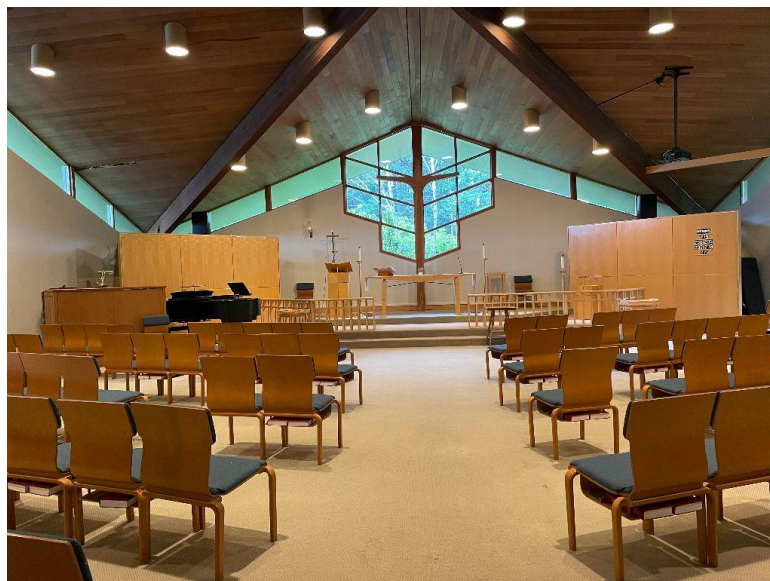
Given these conditions, Bethany will continue to conduct our Sunday worship service at 10am for those who are vaccinated and who are feeling no symptoms of illness. We will operate as we have been since September, and ask additionally that people wear masks, and minimize their interpersonal contacts, especially indoors. We are going to suspend our fellowship hour Sunday mornings, and we will not be holding our Saturday evening worship services and fellowship time during January. On Sunday morning, the FM transmitter will be broadcasting out to the parking lot for those who choose that option.

Perhaps the most important reminder is that worship is not suspended during this time. Our worship continues, even if in a different format and venue. For those who remain at home, this is a time for extra prayer and study, and perhaps connecting with those who may be feeling especially disconnected. For those in your cars, you get extra credit (although our Lutheran emphasis on faith/grace doesn't lend itself to allocating extra credit). For those attending worship in the Bethany sanctuary, our worship in addition to our prayer, praise and thanksgiving, is also a ministry of presence, of bearing witness for those who are unable to physically be with us. It is a time when we are called to worship boldly on behalf of the whole community.

Thank you for being the church, the faithful church, especially in such a time as this.

Be well.

Pastor Paul



FROM THE COUNCIL

2022 Annual Meeting

The 2022 Bethany Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30 following the 10am worship service. The current plan is for an in-person annual meeting, but this will be adjusted to a virtual meeting if the pandemic situation warrants a change. Whether in person or virtual, please plan now to attend. The congregation will be approving new council members for 2022 and a 2022 budget. Additionally, the congregation will be asked to consider a proposal and resolution for the roof repair and sanctuary paint/carpet/lighting update. More information on the roof repair and sanctuary update will be provided to the congregation in advance of the annual meeting.

2021 Year-End Statements

Year-end giving statements will be mailed by the end of January, 2022. Once you receive your statement, please review it for accuracy. If you have any questions about the statement, contact our Financial Secretary, Kristi Sutton.

BETHANY TRANSITIONS

Deaths: David Mueller on December 13

BETHANY NEWS

January Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study group will meet on Monday, January 10th at 9:30am. The Rachel Circle Bible Study group will meet on Tuesday, January 11th at 10:00am followed by quilting. The Men's Bible Study group will meet on Tuesday, January 11th and Tuesday, January 25th at 8:00am in fellowship hall.

January Confirmation Class

The confirmation class will meet on Monday, January 10 and Monday, January 24. With the Omicron surge, we will use the outdoor luncheon area at Woodward for our January meetings. Come dressed for the weather!

2022 Giving Envelopes

The 2022 giving envelopes are ready for pick up in the Narthex. If you have trouble locating your box, contact Debbie in the office.

Sign Up Now For Altar Flowers

The new 2022 Flower Calendar is available on the bulletin board. 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.



Advent and Christmas Decorations

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. A big thank you to Gail Christensen who prepared the sanctuary for Advent. Thanks to Doug Olson, Mike Bartunek, Dick Coar and Pastor Paul for setting up the tree. Thanks to Gary and Selina Johnson for putting the lights on the tree with help from Nancy Wetzler, Miriam Barrender and Linnea Chu. And thank you to Jan Thrun, Joy Rodina, Miriam Barrender, Barbara Swartling and Vickie Bech who decorated the tree. Special thanks to Kathy Dudgeon who assembled the candle cups. And finally, a great big thank you to everyone who helped take down the tree and all the decorations! This includes Gail Christensen, Pastor Paul, Melanie Olson, Linnea Chu, Nancy Wetzler, Joe Sommerseth and Vickie Bech. Our deepest gratitude goes to Ruth Bartunek for organizing and overseeing the entire process!



CHRISTMAS AT BETHANY



BETHANY IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Annual Service of Remembrance

The Church of Steadfast Love (Seattle) will lead this special service in remembrance of those who have died on the streets or as a result of homelessness **this Friday, January 7 at 4pm**. The service will be virtual (*Leaders only will be at the host site - Immanuel Lutheran in Seattle*)

Join the service here:

www.youtube.com/c/ImmanuelLutheranChurchSeattle.



If you join at 4pm online for the service, you will have the opportunity to e-chat during the service. The service will also be available to watch anytime after 4pm but you will not be able to chat with the larger community. For more information, contact Pastor Kristy Daniels at (206) 474-1007 or PastorKristy@compasshousingalliance.org.

***“Healer of our ev’ry ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.”***

(Healer of our Every Ill, With One Voice #738)

THE GREATER CHURCH



From the Bishop

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

During this winter, as many continue to grapple with – and be discouraged by – the continuation of the pandemic, isolation, discontent, and loneliness, we might feel that our relationships are not as strong as they once were – with family and friends, with colleagues and co-workers, and with those in our church.

Recently I read a book called *Tempered Resilience* by Tod Bolsinger. While I wasn’t enthralled with the whole book, I did resonate with one visual that he used and perhaps you will find helpful in this time, too. He writes about how our different relationship help us in our resilience and in our on-going ability to adapt. On page 112 Bolsinger writes, “To flourish in ministry or other forms of social leadership, leaders need to be conscious of at least three different contexts, and the relationships needed to flourish in those contexts, ‘front stage, backstage, and offstage.’”

The Front Stage is the public face that we show to the world. It is the place where “performance” happens. It is critical to have trustworthy colleagues or teammates where you are able to be yourself. These relationships could include peers and teammates, partners, and colleagues. An example from scripture would be the disciples. Who would you include in your life?

The Back Stage is the place to support and nurture you in your “front stage” work. Good front stage work depends on lots of time backstage analyzing and thinking about the work that is

being done, learning from the lessons of success and failure from others, and especially, gaining perspective from experienced leaders. In his book Bolsinger cautions, “Backstage relationships don’t happen because of others. They happen because of you.” (p. 116) In other words, you might have to seek out “backstage” people. Backstage relationships include therapists, coaches, mentors, spiritual directors, pastors, and more. An example in scripture would be David listening to Samuel or Moses listening to his father-in-law Jethro or Ruth listening Naomi. Who would you include in your life?

The Off Stage are the people that you are emotionally closest to and who are your confidants. As Bolsinger writes, “The quality of your relationships with other people influences how emotionally resilient you can be in the face of an emotional or physical crisis. In general, the more quality social support you can draw upon from family and friends, the more flexible and resilient you can be in stressful situations” (p. 120) An example in scripture would be Elizabeth and Mary. Who would you include in your life?

So, I’m wondering, how are you doing in these three areas? Are your relationships strong “front stage, backstage and off stage”? Do you have good connections? Where could you form deeper connections? Where do you need help forming new relationships?

I’d love to hear from you how we can be a more connected church community, how we can support one another, and how resilience can be built up by forming and growing relationships.

I know this is a difficult and frustrating time for many. I feel it too. May you feel connected with one another. May you feel upheld by one another. And, especially in this Epiphany season, may God’s presence, love and grace be made known to you.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org



January

Siri Love	1/2	Bitsy Ostenson	1/18	Pat Sather	1/24
Norm Davis	1/4	Julie Cooper	1/21	Ian Morris	1/27
McKenna Lang	1/5	Doug Olson	1/21	Agnes Pena	1/28
Michael Noland	1/12	Peter Bang-Knudsen Jr.	1/22	Victor Pena	1/28
Veronika Rohrscheib	1/12	Sarah Lucioni	1/22	David Ballaine	1/30

The Month Ahead

January 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 No Worship
2 10:00am: Worship	3 7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH	4	5	6	7 Noon: Al Anon, FH	8 No Worship
9 10:00am: Worship	10 9:30am: Women's Bible Study, FH 2:00pm: Confirmation Class, Woodward 7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH	11 8:00am: Men's Bible Study, FH 10:00am: Rachel Circle Bible Study followed by Quilters, FH 7:00pm: Council Meeting, FH	12	13	14 Noon: Al Anon, FH	15 No Worship
16 10:00am: Worship	17 7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH	18 10:00am: Quilters, FH	19	20	21 Noon: Al Anon, FH	22 No Worship
23 10:00am: Worship	24 7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH 2:00pm: Confirmation Class, Woodward	25 8:00am: Men's Bible Study, FH 10:00am: Quilters, FH	26 7:00pm Bethany Choir	27	28 Noon: Al Anon, FH	29 No Worship
30 10:00am: Worship 11:00am Annual Meeting	31 7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH					