

Life Together

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



**Pastor Paul
Stumme-Diers**

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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

"I wanna give an offering!"

By Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers



Dear Bethanians,

It was probably 30 years ago when we experienced an outburst in worship that has always remained with me. During the offering, as the mellow music was providing background, a young voice announced quietly, but audibly, and persistently, "I wanna give an offering!" As you can imagine, as the offering plates were passed throughout the congregation, the small voice became larger, the persistence became an insistence, until the child was taken out of the sanctuary, presumably for behavior unfit for worship.

I have since then always heard that voice echoing in my head during the passing of the collection plates. It is the faithful crying out that can be mined from the spiritual depths of each of us. I am convinced that generosity and participation and the expression of gratitude and faith reside within each of us, healthy impulses that help to define us as children of God, and members of a community that is the body of Christ.

This is a powerful characteristic throughout our lives. I recall my grandmother, in her late 90's, aging with class and a strong spirit even though she had known loss, with her greatest lament being that she no longer had resources to make even a meager offering to her church, and in her theology, to her God. "I wanna give an offering" is the faithful refrain we do well to heed throughout our lives.

(Continues next page)

Council leaders



Vicki Browning,
president,
vickibrowning@
comcast.net



Lynn Nordby,
vice president,
lnordby@
msn.com



Jennie Harris,
secretary,
dgh4653@msn.com



Jim Rohrscheib,
treasurer,
jrohrscheib@
juno.com

“I wanna give an offering!”: Continued

I mention this because, after 2 Covid-influenced years, we are returning to a physical, in person offering as a part of our worship. The gold-colored plates are again being passed, and the opportunity to act on our “I wanna give an offering” returns.

Bethany is doing so not as a fundraising gimmick, nor are we doing so in the hope that this will require the pastor to cut the sermon short because of the extra element in worship. We aren’t passing the plates so as to satisfy the loose offering line in the budget, nor to shame people into giving in a public way (nor to “show off”). We give an offering, or “return to God” an offering, because that is an essential part of our worship! It is rooted in acknowledging God’s goodness, and responding in gratitude... the stuff of worship and praise.

We at Bethany can with great honesty say this. Last year, in the heart of the pandemic, when we suspended “in person” offering, our giving exceeded projections, the generosity was astounding given that people needed to find ways (mail, direct deposit, stopping by the office) to give their offering. And 2022 seems more of the same. Thank you!

And now we are properly, in our duty and delight, restoring this practice where it belongs...in WORSHIP. Yes, we still encourage regular and faithful and generous financial giving in all forms, not just Saturday and Sunday worship. But in worship we will incorporate this giving, responding to the crying out within each of us: “I wanna give an offering!”

In gratitude,

Pastor Paul



FROM THE COUNCIL

Updates

The Bethany council has been focusing on the sanctuary project. We have heard reports from Doug Love, chair of the roof portion of the project and from Rachel Pritchett, chair of the interior design committee. We are pleased with the information that will be presented to the congregation for approval on May 22nd after the church service. The committees have been diligent in their research. We so appreciate all the time and effort of the committee members.

The affordable housing proposal has been stalled and discussed and stalled and discussed repeatedly at both the city council and the city planning commission. David Swartling and his committee have had their work cut out for them. The Island needs affordable housing, but the obstacles keep coming. Hopefully, we are getting close to an acceptable solution and building can move forward. Thank you to the committee and to the many people who have written to the city of Bainbridge. Keep the letters up and stay tuned for the latest word.

At the end of the first quarter, Bethany continues to be on a solid financial footing. Income is ahead of budget and expenses are less than budgeted to date. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of Bethany's programs and mission!

Respectfully.

Vicki Browning, Council President

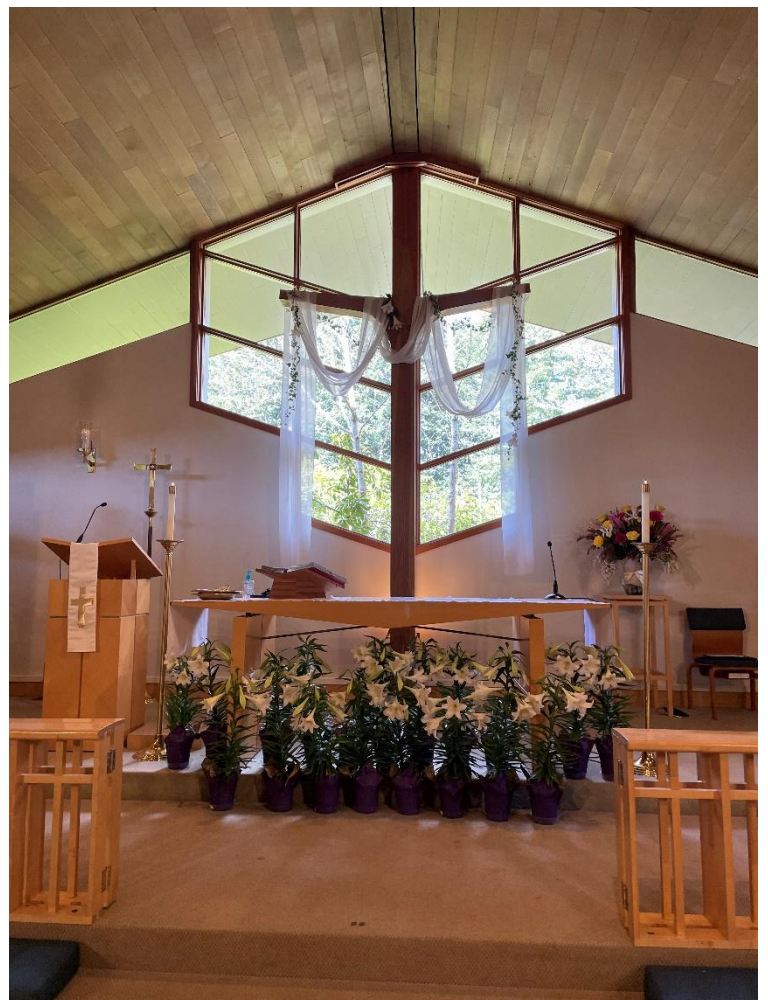
WORSHIP AT BETHANY

Worship Assistants

As the world enters a third year of the Covid pandemic, we are grateful that vaccines and treatment options have made it safe to return to all aspects of worship in our sanctuary, including singing hymns, passing the collection plate, receiving communion and fellowship after the service. With the return of those elements, our wonderful worship assistant volunteers are also back in action. Back up accompanists, greeters, ushers, readers, communion assistants and hospitality hosts all work together to make church for the Bethany community. A huge thank you to all those who regularly serve on Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

Have you thought of serving in some capacity as worship assistant but been unsure of what is involved or how to get started? Our church administrator, Debbie Rimkus can answer your questions and help you get started. Not comfortable with public speaking but enjoy casual conversation? Greeting might be the right role for you. Worried about losing track of the collection plates but a whiz at making coffee. Consider serving occasionally as a hospitality host. Long-time worship assistants can tell you that serving this way enhances the worship experience. To volunteer as a worship assistant, contact Debbie at 206.295.7890 or info@bethanyofbainbridge.org.

Easter at Bethany



BETHANY TRANSITIONS

Died: Carlton C. Anderson, April 3, 2022

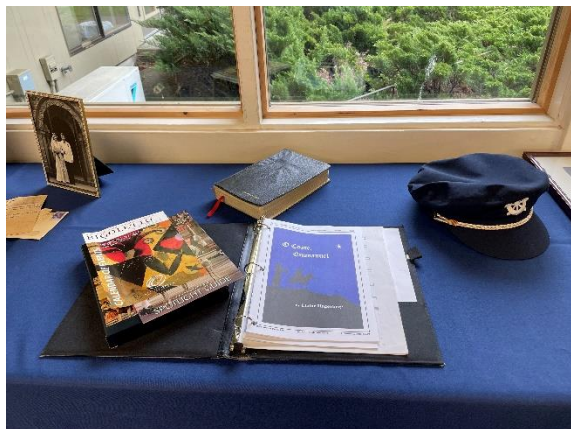
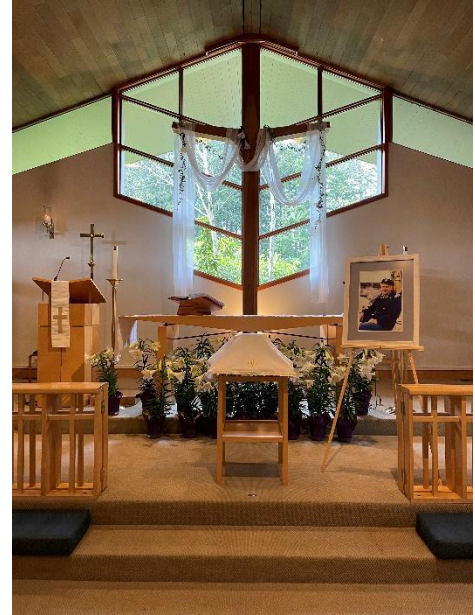
A THANK YOU NOTE

From the Carlton Anderson Family

Thank you Pastor Paul, Sylvia and Bethany Choir for Word and music and to Carol Fenner and all who prepared and served refreshments for our Dad's funeral service. To all members of Bethany, you were a large and meaningful part not only in our parents lives but in each of ours too.

Thank you for your kindness in word and deed and your love and compassion shown in so many ways.

God bless you and keep you – the Family of Carlton & Grace Anderson, Paula, Nathan, Curtiss & Ken.



BETHANY NEWS

May Bible Study

The Rachel Circle Bible Study group will meet on Tuesday, May 3rd at 10:00am. The Men's Bible Study group will meet on Tuesday, May 10th, and May 24th at 8:00am in fellowship hall. The Women's Bible Study group will meet on Monday, May 9th at 9:30am.

Blessing of the Quilts

Plan now to attend worship the weekend of May 7 & 8 when the beautiful quilts made by the Rachel Circle will be blessed. After being blessed, volunteers will gather and box up the quilts and kits for shipment to Lutheran World Relief.



FFF Starts Again

FFF will be reconvening, after our 2-year Covid vacation, on Wednesday, May 18th at noon. This is a group that meets every month for a potluck and a program of some sorts (travel, history, singing, etc.). The purpose of this FFF gathering is to organize ourselves for the year to come, to get input about the best time to meet, to propose potential programs, and for the joy of simply being together. Come and join this fun-loving group.

May Confirmation Class

The final confirmation class for the year will meet on Monday, May 23rd. We will use the outdoor luncheon area at Woodward for our February meetings. Come dressed for the weather!

Sanctuary Project Congregational Meeting



Information on the sanctuary update project was emailed and sent through the regular mail to all Bethany members on April 27. Please plan to attend an informational meeting after worship on May 1 to hear the background of the project, review the draft proposal, and to ask questions of the committee; and a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, May 22, to vote on the final proposal.

BETHANY IN THE COMMUNITY

Boy Scout Troop 1565 Honors New Eagle Scouts

Bethany's Scout Troop 1565 honored three new Eagle Scouts in a Court of Honor on April 16. Congratulations to Ben Meier, Mitchell Teresi, and Lucien Willey on their achievement!



Amabile Choir Concerts

The Amabile Choir, under the direction of Bethany's own Sylvia Cauter, is excited to be performing together again and will offer spring concerts on Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21 at 7:30pm in the Bethany Sanctuary. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at Dana's Showhouse or from an Amabile Choir member.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

**May 20 and 21,
2022**

**AMABILE CHOIR RETURNS TO
THE LIVE STAGE!**

**7:30 P.M. BOTH NIGHTS AT BETHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7968 FINCH ROAD,
NE, BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA 98110**

**TICKETS \$15 AT DANA'S SHOWHOUSE OR
PURCHASE FROM CHOIR MEMBERS
www.amabilechoir.org**



Amabile Choir is a chapter of ACLA, a non-profit organization
with the mission to support and encourage the community with
100% of proceeds going directly to the choir.

THE GREATER CHURCH

From the Bishop

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



I recently watched a documentary series that talked about bodies. In this documentary it was pointed out how in our society certain bodies are acceptable and “beautiful” (usually thin, young, female, white, etc.) and other bodies are not (usually fat, old, disabled, disfigured, etc.). One of the suggestions in this documentary to counteract society’s shaming culture about bodies is to stand in front of a mirror and look at your body. And, as you look at your body, to name, out loud, the positive things you see in the mirror. For five minutes. Five. Minutes. This is a long time. And, to be honest, I have a much easier time naming my body’s deficits than attributes. Perhaps you can relate to this.

I think that we have the same problem when it comes to “church bodies.” Just as individual bodies are critiqued, church bodies are critiqued in this society as well. A church body that has 800 bodies in it seems “sexier” than a church body that has 40 bodies in it. A church body that has younger bodies in it seems more attractive than a church body that has older bodies in it. A church body that has X, Y, or Z seems better than a church body that has R, P, or G (you fill in the letters). We have narrowed what it means to be beautiful and viable in the church much like we have with people in society – and if your particular context is different, it is easy to become tired and overwhelmed. It is easy to feel overlooked and shamed. It is easy, quite simply, to be discouraged.

But what if we expanded what it means to be the body of the church? What if – much like beauty standards need to do – we embraced a diversity of sizes and shapes? What if we truly incorporated what God does constantly – create and shape and grow and nurture a multitude of church bodies for the sake of the good news of Jesus?

I mean...just as God never intended for the evergreen to be the only tree on earth (as beautiful as our state tree is), God never intended for one body to be the perfect body (as beautiful as each body is). The same goes for our church bodies. Think if we truly embraced the young and the old, the small and the large, the variety and multi-faceted ways of being church – including celebrating all that we do and are for the sake of the Gospel.

What if we listed all of the ministries that we participate in and that we partner with others outside of the church? What if we looked at the ministries that last a month or a year as important as those that last for decades? What if we said “yes” to ideas that seem different from what we’ve always done? What if we expanded church beyond worship on Sunday mornings to...what? What would you say? What do you envision? How is your imagination sparked through the Holy Spirit?

I encourage you to do the same exercise that is suggested from that documentary I mentioned above – only hold the mirror to our church body. What are you seeing and

experiencing as attributes? What do you love about the church body that you participate in? What is beautiful? What formative experience is deep within you that you hold onto and would like to share with others? What do you see as a possibility beyond what you have been doing? What do you see as an obstacle that perhaps, upon closer inspection, could be a passageway? How has God gifted your community? Where is God's Spirit nudging you now?

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, enslaved or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org





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

June

Jon Christensen	6/3	Elaine Keeley	6/11	Grace Dudgeon	6/24
Colin Lindquist	6/4	Dave Christensen	6/14	Evan Stoll	6/24
Steve Stenberg	6/5	Tanya Roe	6/16	Ralph Munro	6/25
Bruce McCain	6/6	Sheryl Biegert	6/18	Nancy Wetzler	6/25
Luke Shields	6/6	David Boothby	6/18	Diane Beck	6/27
Wayne Richmond	6/7	Miles Kelly	6/20	Chris Marten	6/28
Marshall Whittlesey	6/7	Linda Newlon	6/22	Raymond Miles	6/28
Vicki Milander	6/10	Linnea Chu	6/24	Barbara Deines	6/29

May Worship Assistants

Saturday Evening Worship:

Date:	Task:	Name:
May 7	Usher/Greeter	Joe Sommerse <u>th</u>
	Lay Reader	Carol Fen <u>ner</u>
	Hospitality Host	Ron & Carol Fen <u>ner</u>
May 14	Usher/Greeter	Barbara Michael
	Lay Reader	Barbara Michael
	Hospitality Host	Jim & Veronika Rohrscheib
May 21	Usher/Greeter	Dick Coar
	Lay Reader	Gail Christensen
	Hospitality Host	Jim & Veronika Rohrscheib
May 28	Usher/Greeter	Charlene Selvar
	Lay Reader	Jenny Harris
	Hospitality Host	Jenny Harris

Sunday Morning Worship:

Date:	Task:	Name:
May 1	Greeters/Ushers	Barbara & Stephen Deines
	Lay Reader	Barbara Deines
	Communion Assistant	Vicki Browning
	Hospitality Hosts	Claire & Marty Dasler
May 8	Greeters/Ushers	Barbara & David Swartling
	Lay Reader	Marcy Daley
	Communion Assistant	Wayne Daley
	Hospitality Hosts	Benay & Lynn Nordby
May 15	Greeters/Ushers	Eve & Mike Curtis
	Lay Reader	Kathy Dudgeon
	Communion Assistant	Doug Dudgeon
	Hospitality Hosts	Debbie & Andy Rimkus
May 22	Greeters	Jan Thrun & Lisa Dean
	Ushers	Harry & Nancy Wetzler
	Lay Reader	Stina Peña
	Communion Assistant	Vicki Browning
	Hospitality Hosts	Vicki Browning & Kristi Sutton
May 29	Greeters/Ushers	Alice & Bruce McCain
	Lay Reader	Andy Rimkus
	Communion Assistant	Sonja Selboe
	Hospitality Hosts	Karen & Ed Kushner

The Month Ahead

May 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Worship followed by coffee fellowship 11:00am Sanctuary Project Forum	2 7:15pm Boy Scouts, FH	3 10:00am Quilters 6:30pm Amabile Choir	4	5	6 Noon Al Anon, FH	7 5:00pm Worship & Blessing of Quilts, followed by wine and cheese fellowship
8 10:00am Worship & Blessing of Quilts, followed by coffee fellowship	9 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH	10 8:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Rachel Circle Bible Study followed by Quilters 10:15 Preschool Chapel 7:00pm Council Meeting 6:30pm Amabile Choir	11 10:20 Preschool Chapel 7:00pm Bethany Choir	12 9:30 Caring Hearts Meeting	13 Noon Al Anon, FH	14 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship
15 10:00am Worship followed by coffee fellowship	16 7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH	17 10:00am Quilters 6:30pm Amabile Choir	18 12 Noon FFF 7:00pm Bethany Choir	19 6:30 Amabile Rehearsal	20 Noon Al Anon, FH 7:30 Amabile Concert	21 Noon Bainbridge Youth Choir 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship 7:30 Amabile Concert
22 10:00am Worship followed by coffee fellowship 11:00am Sanctuary Project Congregational Meeting	23 2:00pm Confirmation Class, Woodward 7:15pm Boy Scouts, FH	24 8:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Quilters 10:15 Preschool Chapel	25 10:20am Preschool Chapel 7:00pm Bethany Choir	26	27 Noon Al Anon, FH	28 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship
29 10:00am Worship followed by coffee fellowship	30 Memorial Day – Office Closed	31 10:00am Quilters				