

# Life Together

**Bethany Lutheran Church's  
e-newsletter  
Summer 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**

***We Begin to Walk***

*By Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers*



Dear Bethanians,

Last Sunday, the Gospel concluded: "...he took up his mat and he *began* to walk." (John 5:9) I imagined with you how it would be for a man, lame for 38 years, to then *begin* to walk: legs wobbly from atrophy, the need to regain confidence, to catch his stride. And to do this after telling Jesus, "Sir, I have no one..." No one to lean on, no one to catch him if he stumbles, no one to show him the way.

I equated this with our, now, one year old grandson, Fritz. Earlier this month when I was visiting him, and babysitting while mom and dad worked, I was in the world of a little boy standing, even "cruising" from hand-hold to hand-hold, but not yet stepping out into the world of free walking. A bit wobbly, looking beneath his feet rather than looking up – kind of like his grandpa on a hike, focused on rocks and roots, and missing the beauty above. But it clearly is a matter of time before he begins to walk, and then, as everyone knows, life is going to change.

As the man lame for 38 years *began* to walk, just sense the excitement of what was awaiting him. Just think of where those atrophied legs will take him; just think where Fritz's chubby baby legs will travel.

*(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,  
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## We *Begin* to Walk: Continued

The pandemic hasn't lasted 38 years, although... Unlike Fritz, however, we have walked before. Bethany has walked the way of Jesus for 133 years. Still, in many ways it feels as though we are just *beginning* to walk, to find our stride, even. "And he *began* to walk"

as our social skills return.

as we again begin to make plans with some confidence.

as we organize our calendars to include others, not just "our" household.

as we seek to recover the best of the past and look to what God is making new.

For Bethany this presents an opportunity for a fresh start, with our ongoing ministries continuing strong, as well as the special efforts focused on the sanctuary remodeling and the affordable housing project.

It also is a time to strenuously focus on ministry priorities such as our Child and Family Ministry program. After a two-year time of periodic programming and lacking an individual director, it is an opportune time for a new beginning. Bethany is actively searching for a director to lead this effort, to explore something new with our families, and to lead volunteers in this program of faith and community development. If you know of such an individual, please let them know of this position.

It is an exciting time when, after some time, one "begins" to walk. It can also be an uncertain time of wonderment and discernment. But, as the Gospel story reminds us, we are indeed not alone, not walking alone – Jesus walks alongside. In that there is hope and healing. In that there is ever new life.

In gratitude,

Pastor Paul

P.S. Today (May 26<sup>th</sup>) I received word that Fritz took his first steps this morning...and he began to walk.



## **FROM THE COUNCIL**

### **Update**

Thank you to everyone who has donated or made a pledge towards the sanctuary project. The congregation has approved an amount not to exceed \$150,000 and the anticipated demolition will begin June 20<sup>th</sup>, the day after Fathers' Day. Stay tuned regarding progress. Worship services will be held either outside where we met last summer or in the fellowship hall. Getting back to "normal" will be nice, whatever "normal" is. It is long overdue.

We are planning to have some fellowship events this summer and fall and if you can help plan those it would be much appreciated. We also need some work parties to take care of building and ground projects so are looking for help there too. If you have ideas or know of someone who could help us get the after COVID youth program going that would be most welcomed as well.

Financially, we are sound and the generosity of our families is heartwarming.

Sincerely,  
Vicki Browning

### **May 22<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by the council president Vicki Browning. Jim Rohrscheib and Pastor Paul confirmed that there was a quorum present with approximately 65 members of the congregation. Vicki recognized Rachel Pritchett and Doug Love, along with their committees for their work in support of the remodel. The council has passed a motion to put before the congregation a proposal to spend up to \$140,000.00 to remodel the sanctuary. It appears that there has been more damage discovered that will require approximately \$10,000.00 more. Dave Christensen made a motion to increase the motion approved by the council by the required additional amount, the motion was seconded by Norm Davis. This motion passed unanimously. Council President Vicki Browning then brought the amended motion before the congregation, to spend up to \$150,000.00 to remodel the sanctuary. This also passed unanimously. Barbara Swartling asked if there was an estimated start and finish date. There is none at this time. The meeting was closed.

## **BETHANY TRANSITIONS**

**Born:** Hazel Kelly, on May 10, 2022, to Kevin and Sandy Kelly

## **A THANK YOU NOTE**

### **From DeMar and Pat Sather**

Dear Wonderful People of Bethany,

We are so thankful for the caring of folks here as to the recent health issues of both DeMar and our son, Mark. DeMar has responded well to the appointments he has had and tests show continued healing during the rehab he receives here on the island. Our son, Mark has been diagnosed with a brain mass which is isolated in the thalamus part of his brain and cannot be removed as that can spread it. So Mark continues treatment at Overlake Hospital in Bellevue and we are hopeful of a good outcome with the weeks of treatment – radiation to shrink and chemo to kill cells. All the prayers mean everything to us. Thank you from our hearts!! We appreciate all of you!

In Christ,

DeMar & Pat Sather

## **BETHANY NEWS**

### **Bethany Garden**

Bethany's garden is seeking people who would like to plant and tend to the garden this summer. We have a water supply, so the watering is convenient. This garden in the past has provided wonderful vegetables for Helpline House as well as for the gardeners themselves. if you are looking for a garden plot for the summer, or if you want to help Helpline House provide healthy fresh veggies, let Debbie know.





## Summer Bible Study

The Rachel Circle Bible Study group will meet on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. The Men's Bible Study group will meet on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Subsequent summer meetings are to be determined.

## Bethany's Women's Bible Study Group

What is special about women getting together to explore spiritual issues from a Christian perspective?

There is the challenge of together choosing a challenging topic and book for discussion. There is intellectual and spiritual excitement from sharing new insights or reinforcing existing ideas. There is bonding with other women who want to dig deeper and grow their faith. There are laughs, a few tears, and-of course-coffee or tea and treats to go with those conversations.

Where can you find such a group of women to share these experiences?

Bethany Women's Bible Study group offers all this. We meet once a month (usually the second Monday at 9:30 a.m.-noon) during the school year, either in homes or at Bethany (or by Zoom during COVID times). This year we read and discussed Universal Christ by Richard Rohr and Jesus and Nonviolence by Walter Wink. In previous years the group has read books by Lenny Duncan, Marcus Borg, J. D. Crossan, and Walter Brueggemann, among others.

For our last session of the 2021-22 year, we will meet at Alice McCain's Suquamish home, on June 13 at 11 a.m. Our agenda is sharing a potluck lunch and discussing topics for the 2022-23 year.

Does this sound like a group you might enjoy? We welcome new members and visitors. Contact Alice McCain, Helen Stoll or Sonja Selboe for more information.

## FFF Is Back In Action

The FFF group had its first potluck gathering in over two years on May 18! It was an opportunity to enjoy some food and fellowship, and to plan for future gatherings. The group will once again meet every month for a potluck at noon on the second Wednesday of the month. There may be an occasional field trip, program, or special event such as a summer ice cream social. The next gathering will be a potluck in the fellowship hall at noon on Wednesday, June 8. All are welcome to join this fun-loving group.



## Rachel Circle and Gifts of Generosity

Did you know that there is a “quilt room” in the basement at Bethany? In it are shelves of donated fabric, topped by more shelves holding completed quilts created by Rachel Circle members. Elsewhere in the small room are baby care items and supplies for school kits. In addition, this spring we were able to add fabric kits to our list of projects.

After quilts and kits are created and displayed, as they were at Bethany on Mother’s Day weekend, they are taken to an “Ingathering,” on their way to Lutheran World Relief’s worldwide distribution centers. This spring Bethany sent 93 quilts, 49 baby kits and 11 fabric kits to help LWR recipients who may be half a world away. We will repeat the process in the fall, at that time adding school kits to the shipment.

This spring we received a gift of quilting fabric and spools of thread from the owner of Poulsbo’s now-closed Quilt Shoppe, Beatrice Marx of Kingston. Beatrice heard about Bethany quilting from a friend and donated at least 15 partial bolts of quality fabric from her store to Rachel Circle. That gift has so far resulted in the fabric kits (6 yards of fabric plus thread in each kit) and some beautiful quilts, with more to come.

Another generous donor is Gladys Schulz, (retired) quilter extraordinaire. On Easter Sunday Rachel Circle sold two of her gorgeous quilts plus another donated quilt via silent auction. The auction raised \$450, which was donated to LWR Ukraine Disaster Relief. Our thanks to Gladys and to the purchasers of the quilts.

Generosity never seems to end. All this happens due to the many people who donate material and supplies as well as cash for shipping and other expenses, those who create quilts and kits, and those who help to display, package and transport them.

Rachel Circle meets at Bethany each Tuesday morning throughout the school year from 10 to early afternoon (flexible hours). Some Rachel Circle members will continue to gather during the summer months. Many caring hands go into this process, and newcomers are always welcome-even if sewing isn’t your thing!



Quilts, Fabric Kits (on kneeling pad), Baby Care Kits (under altar) on display May 8 & 9

## **Baccalaureate and Our Graduating Seniors**

A Baccalaureate service for graduating high school seniors will take place at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, on June 5, at 3pm. Our heartfelt congratulations to Bethany seniors Peter Bang-Knudsen III, Max Carlsen, and Luke Shields

### **BETHANY IN THE COMMUNITY**

## **Amabile Choir Concerts**

Unfortunately, the Amabile Choir, under the direction of Bethany's own Sylvia Cauter, had to postpone their spring concerts due to illness. The new concert dates are Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18 at 7:30pm in the Bethany Sanctuary. Celebrate Father's Day weekend listening to this amazing choral group! Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at Dana's Showhouse or from an Amabile Choir member.

## **Kitsap Ride for Refugees**

After a hiatus, and due to popular demand, the Reform Ride is back, now called the Kitsap Ride for Refugees! Ride your bike in beautiful Kitsap County and benefit regional refugee services. The ride takes place on August 20, 2022, in partnership with Lutheran Community Services Northwest. All proceeds go toward LCS Northwest and their refugee resettlement efforts.

Participants can choose between a 10- or 30-mile out-and-back course through beautiful Kitsap County, starting and ending at Silverdale Lutheran Church. This is an untimed, supported bike ride (not a race). Roads will still be open to vehicles and participants may need to stop at intersections. For more information and to register, visit <https://lcsnw.org/kitsap-ride-for-refugees/>



## **Save the Date**

Mark your calendars now for the 2022 CROP Walk for Hunger on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.



## **THE GREATER CHURCH**



### **From the Bishop**

***Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee***

Today I walked my dogs. As I was walking, one person told me how beautiful my dogs were. (I agree!) Another person told me they were so glad to see the sun. (Me too!) Another mock-yelled after me when I didn't greet him, "Hey! Aren't you going to say hello?" (I smiled and waved.) I love my neighborhood in South Everett. I especially love that there are several languages being spoken in the homes surrounding mine: there is a multitude of ethnicities, there are different religious expressions, children's voices are heard at all hours of the day, and there are different food smells wafting out windows at dinner time.

Even as I experience belonging and love for this neighborhood, though, I am also aware of the troubles and heartaches here. A little girl was hit by a car and died here a few years ago. People have been affected by COVID. Rising prices are causing some to not be able to live here. People who are renting are being forced out when landlords decide to sell. And there are people affected by meth, domestic violence, and so much more behind the walls of the homes in my neighborhood.

I think of all of us in the "neighborhood" of the Northwest Washington Synod and how I love our neighborhood. I love the diversity we have in our synod. I love the different geographies, landscapes, languages, ethnicities, cultures, and foods in our synod. As I journey through the 110+ congregations and ministry sites of this synod, I am aware of the deep joys and crushing sorrows, and the connections and the loneliness that surround us. Much like my little neighborhood, there is diversity and there is belonging here. And much like my little neighborhood, there is loss and there is grief and there is difficulty. We cannot ignore that there are thorny and deep-seated social and relational complexities within us as a church and in society as a whole.

Holding the "both/and" of this reality – the true joy and the deep sorrow and frustration – is why the theme for this year's 2022 Synod Assembly is *abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*.

Now let me say this: While it is true that some may look at our theme, "Abound in Hope" and assume that we are naively optimistic or positive. Others may look at our theme, "Abound in Hope" and think that we do not understand the mountain that we must climb. Still others may look at our theme, "Abound in Hope" and wonder how – with the pain Church has caused many or the sins of our ancestors – that we are only living in the present and not acknowledging the past. To those, this is what I say:

We are abounding in hope. And because we are abounding in hope we are invited into complex and difficult conversations through the power of the Holy

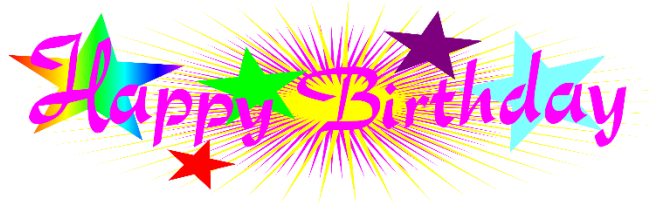


Spirit. We are able to face the realities of life today – knowing that we are not alone. We do not ignore or downplay or pretend that there are not sad and horrifying realities in our world today. We fiercely hold on to the hope that comes only through Jesus. And, knowing this, together, we are called to be, share in, and live into the good news that comes through our risen Savior Jesus. And so...we are ***abounding in hope***.

I am thankful to be living in this neighborhood of Northwest Washington Synod with you. May we abound in hope through God's Spirit living in this world and into God's future.

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





## 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

## July

Mitchell Milander	7/2	Vicki Browning	7/12	Doug Dudgeon	7/22
Barbara Michael	7/3	Mary Toepel Coar	7/13	Howard Howlett	7/25
Thomas Croker	7/4	Patty Ellerby	7/15	Wade Watson	7/26
Harrison Howlett	7/6	Lloyd Pritchett	7/17	Tia Stauffer	7/27
Elsie Love	7/10	Linda Sommerseth	7/18	Maimu Truitt	7/30
		Samuel Drov Dahl	7/22		

## June Worship Assistants

### Saturday Evening Worship:

Date:	Task:	Name:
<b>June 4</b>	Usher/Greeter	Cancelled
	Lay Reader	Cancelled
	Hospitality Host	Cancelled
<b>June 11</b>	Usher/Greeter	Dick Coar
	Lay Reader	Gail Christensen
	Hospitality Host	Gail Christensen
<b>June 18</b>	Usher/Greeter	Carol & Ron Fenner
	Lay Reader	Jenny Harris
	Hospitality Host	Jenny Harris
<b>June 25</b>	Usher/Greeter	Joe Sommerseth
	Lay Reader	Barbara Michael
	Hospitality Host	Jim and Veronika Rohrscheib

### Sunday Morning Worship:

Date:	Task:	Name:
<b>June 5</b>	Ushers/Greeters	Andy & Debbie Rimkus
	Lay Reader	Linda Newlon
	Communion Assistant	Vicki Browning
	Hospitality Host	Linda & Tom Newlon
<b>June 12</b>	Ushers/Greeters	Mike & Eve Curtis
	Lay Reader	Marcy Daley
	Communion Assistant	Wayne Daley
	Hospitality Host	
<b>June 19</b>	Greeter	Jan Thrun
	Ushers	Barbara & Stephen Deines
	Lay Reader	Barbara Deines
	Communion Assistant	Vicki Browning
	Hospitality Host	Vicki Browning & Kristi Sutton
<b>June 26</b>	Ushers/Greeters	Barbara & David Swartling
	Lay Reader	David Swartling
	Communion Assistant	Jeff Sievertson
	Hospitality Host	Claire & Marty Dasler

## The Month Ahead

June 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Noon Altar Guild 7:00pm Bethany Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <i>Noon Al Anon, FH</i>	<b>4</b> 9am-4pm Synod Assembly NO 5:00pm Worship
<b>5</b> Pentecost  10:00am Worship followed by coffee fellowship	<b>6</b> <i>7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH</i>	<b>7</b> 10:00am Rachel Circle Bible Study followed by Quilters	<b>8</b> Noon FFF Potluck 7:00pm Bethany Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <i>Noon Al Anon, FH</i>	<b>11</b> 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship
<b>12</b> 10:00am Worship followed by coffee fellowship	<b>13</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study  <i>7:15pm: Boy Scouts, FH</i>	<b>14</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study  10:00am Quilters  7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Noon Al Anon, FH</i>	<b>18</b> 5:00pm Holden Evening Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship
<b>19</b> 10:00am Worship followed by coffee fellowship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00am Quilters	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Noon Al Anon, FH</i>	<b>25</b> 5:00pm Worship followed by wine and cheese fellowship
<b>26</b> 10:00am Worship followed by coffee fellowship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00am Quilters	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		