



Celebrating our life together

Bethany Lutheran Church Annual report 2022



**A Reconciling in Christ congregation ■ 206-842-4241 ■ bethanyofbainbridge.org
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MISSION STATEMENT

*To seek to do God's will through joyful outreach near and far,
with hospitality toward all, and with spiritual growth that amazes.*

IN THESE PAGES

Moving Towards Normal

Welcome to your 2022 Annual Report! Many of us weren't sure what to expect in 2022.

After two years of pandemic life, would it feel more 'normal'? While Covid is still with us, Bethany did indeed feel more normal!

We worshiped in person, together in sacred space, throughout the year. That sacred space changed from the sanctuary to fellowship hall, to the patio and ultimately back to our beautiful, remodeled sanctuary.

We welcomed Pastor Erin Grayson to the staff to serve as our Pastor for Faith Formation. We once again have Sunday School for children and Adult Ed offerings after Sunday services.

We enjoyed pancake breakfasts, soup suppers in Lent, summer BBQs, a Rally Sunday, and an Advent craft fair. Bible Study groups, Altar Guild and Rachel Circle were able to meet in person throughout the year without interruption. Preschoolers laughed and played and enjoyed chapel time with Pastors Paul and Erin.

What will 2023 bring? I hope more celebrations, a deeper sense of community, an increase in our social outreach efforts. Oh, and a greater feeling of 'normal'!



— Debbie Rimkus, church administrator

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LEADERS' REPORTS

Pastor: Our Dance is AbunDance

By Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers

The year of Our Lord 2022 has been a truly remarkable year of abundance at Bethany Lutheran Church. Emerging from the throes of Covid-19 (19!), our community is like a butterfly breaking from its chrysalis. It feels like we are spreading our wings after a confinement, and doing so with a bold and faithful spirit. Yes, there are vestiges of the cocoon, residue of a congregation disrupted by pandemic – there is work ahead – but we approach it with the spirit of AbunDance.



Rejoice with me, and delight in the journey ahead, as we together consider the expressions of AbunDance in 2022

+ Bethany has called Pastor Erin Grayson as our Pastor for Faith Formation. In a bold, expansive gesture, Bethany adds Pastor Grayson to our staff, to our life together to serve our growing needs in forming the faith in our community, especially that of our families. At the same time, she frees Pastor Paul for (grandson) Fritz visits and travel. AbunDance!

+ In 2022, in a time of financial belt-tightening across churches, the Bethany membership has been a model of AbunDance:

- Exceeding expected budgeted income by \$17,000 and realizing a \$23,000 surplus which will be applied to our 2023 budget. AbunDance!
- Congregational budgeted benevolence, supporting church and community partners with \$57,500, we live out our generosity.
- AND full funding our sanctuary remodel, with EXTRA giving of \$150,000. AbunDance!
- As a footnote, Bethany elected not to apply for the PPP money during the pandemic because the support of our congregants, YOU, was so strong that we could not justify it. AbunDance!

+ The spirit of AbunDance is felt as the Bethany Choir has this year rejoiced in being able to gather in person to sing. Sylvia Cauter (the director and choreographer of this AbunDance) has welcomed a wonderful cross-section of SATB, and conducted us to glorify God. AbunDance!

+ Bible Studies for men and women have been persistent in their convening, as has Rachel Circles spiritual practice of quilting and LWR kit production. Bethany AbunDance is not only evident in the product created, blessed and shipped, but also in the spirit of the gatherings.

(Continued on next page.)

+ The Bethany Preschool (a lot of AbunDancing in that place) is thriving under the dedicated and spirited and professional leadership of Katie Drovda. AbunDance!

+ And the ambitious, bold, visionary and faithful efforts of Bethany's Affordable Housing Task Force have given new expression to this AbunDance. Navigating COBI City Council and Planning Commission meetings and now moving ahead to realize this goal (see their report) reminds us this AbunDance isn't always smooth and graceful and easy... but it is important. As a first for me, we even had protesters picketing our worship services, accusing Bethany of "greed". We prefer to call providing prime land for free for affordable housing, "AbunDance of faith".

Oh, as in every congregation, the challenges before Bethany are many, but we are confident that the AbunDance that has moved and shaped us in the past, and especially profoundly in 2022, will continue to define who and whose we are a beloved community rooted in God's grace.

Celebrating God's AbunDance,
Pastor Paul



LEADERS' REPORTS

Pastor for Faith Formation: New Beginnings

By Pastor Erin Grayson



In September of 2022 I joined the Bethany ministry team in a new position, Pastor of Faith Formation. The call to serve the youth and families of Bethany Lutheran Church and to organize the Adult Education program is an honor.

We hit the ground running by getting the Sunday school program set-up after a joyous "Rally Day" celebration. Thanks to some very dedicated volunteers, we've offered Sunday school on most Sunday mornings since! We've had anywhere between three and eight young people join us for a short, interactive and intergenerational lesson, a fun craft, and a snack. As families get back into regular routines after a pandemic-induced pause in activities, we are hopeful that the program will continue to thrive and grow.

For the very youngest among us, we offered nursery care which often was integrated into the Sunday school program--and it worked wonderfully to have children of a variety of ages together in one place! When the sanctuary renovation was completed, we created a "family space" where families with young children are welcome to stay during worship. The vision was to give families the option to stay in worship together while their children are served in a space that offers them age-appropriate spiritual nourishment as a part of the worship experience. We continued to offer a separate nursery option on most Sundays when our dedicated youth workers were available.



Adult education picked up in person in September with a short series on the topic of "Creating a Community of Enough," followed by a short series to begin learning about our neighbors, the Suquamish Tribe. We studied the Suquamish Land Acknowledgement and prepared to share it in various ways in our congregational life. To continue the learning, a small group went on a field trip to the Suquamish Museum on a Wednesday morning. Finally, we capped the year with a short series on cultivating a spirit of gratitude in our lives--which fit in nicely with the Thanksgiving and holiday season.

September marked a new beginning for my ministry at Bethany Lutheran Church, and in many ways, a new beginning for the Sunday school and Adult Ed programs after the years of pandemic. I'm grateful to the congregation for the opportunity to serve and to create community rooted in faith formation. Many thanks for welcoming me into the fold.

LEADERS' REPORTS

President: A Year of Transition



By Vicki Browning, council president

2022 was a year of transition. We transitioned from worshiping in the sanctuary to worshiping on the patio to worshiping in the fellowship hall to worshiping in the sanctuary. We referred to it as the “Sanctuary Project” and it was. Steve Christensen, the council president in 2020 oversaw the project’s beginnings and stuck with it to the point of needing a contractor. Doug Love, the 2021 council president moved it forward with the contractor taking over. Rachel Pritchett and her design team guided it to completion. We are thrilled with our new surroundings, a light ceiling that doesn’t drip water, newly painted walls, improved lighting and a dark carpet without coffee and candle wax stains.

Good things happened at Bethany in 2022. Pastor Erin joined Pastor Paul to help shepherd the flock. The preschool continued to run smoothly under the direction of Katie Drovda and the church office was expertly run by our administrator, Debbie Rimkus. We met our financial goals including the costs of the sanctuary project.

The Altar Guild keeps things running smoothly and the quilters continue to amaze us with their beautiful quilts. Our commitment to outreach and support for the efforts of Martha and Mary as well as Lutheran World Relief also continues.

New members will soon be joining us and we are seeing families who were reluctant to get out during the COVID pandemic returning to church activities.

The Bethany Affordable Housing Taskforce under the guidance of David Swartling and Tom Crocker was able to guide the project forward with the city of Bainbridge approving the state ordinance to allow religious organizations density bonuses. The feasibility studies have begun and once it is deemed feasible, and the congregation approves it, the project will be able to move forward. Before that happens, Bethany will need to form an LLC. It appears the ELCA will be able to facilitate this and hopefully we will be able to partner with HRB. Everything going forward needs the approval of our congregation. We will be encouraging input from our members as well as our community at large. The details of the available funds through the city of Bainbridge and other entities will be explained and discussed at the annual meeting. I know there are concerns as to the position of Bethany and the liability going forward. This is the purpose of the project being handled by an LLC (limited liability corporation). Bethany will be protected, and proud that we are in a position to donate the property for affordable housing.

There are always challenges to be faced. All in all though, it feels positive at Bethany Lutheran Church.

MINUTES AND A RESOLUTION

Minutes from the Last Annual Meeting

Submitted by Jennie Harris, Council Secretary

Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022, 11:15 a.m. via Zoom

Council President Doug Love called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m., and an opening prayer was offered by Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers. Office Administrator Debbie Rimkus confirmed that there was a quorum of congregation members present on the Zoom platform.

•MINUTES APPROVAL – A motion was made, seconded, and adopted to approve the minutes of the 2021 annual meeting.

•PRESIDENT’S REPORT – President Doug Love spoke about COVID and the many ways the congregation continued to address its challenges. The attendance at services and giving have remained steady. He reported that the part-time position of a Children and Family Coordinator will be posted in the upcoming weeks. The preschool is doing well even though there are multiple challenges. Many activities take place outside; when inside everyone wears masks, and windows are open. He commended Katie Drov Dahl and the staff. The affordable housing project will be addressed later in the meeting. There have been no commitments made. The ceiling condensation problem addressed in last year’s meeting has been moving forward. The Council is working with contractors. There will be a brief overview after a worship service in the near future. There will also be a special congregational meeting to approve the project. Approximately \$55,000 currently exists to start the project, but additional fund- raising will be necessary in order to not add to the mortgage.

•PASTOR’S REPORT – Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers began his report by commenting that it has been a year of lost and found. He is weary of the losses but feels that 2022 will be a year of discovery, finding our stride in a new way. He recognized many people that have contributed to the success of the congregation in the last year: Doug Love for his leadership as Council President; Sylvia Cauter for helping the congregation to find its voice; Jeff Jensen and Doug Dudgeon for their technical help; and the congregation for its support. The congregation lost its Office Administrator Rachel Pritchett early in the year, yet found and hired Debbie Rimkus, and she has been a great gift. In finding our stride for 2022 he would like to redouble our efforts in the area of children and family ministry. During the upcoming season of Lent, he would like congregational members to reflect on their own losses and finds from the past year.

•FINANCIAL REPORTS – Treasurer Jim Rohrscheib brought before the congregation a motion from the Church Council to approve a 2022 spending budget of \$409,691. He explained that since this was a motion from the Council it did not need a second. Rohrscheib then went on to thank the members of the congregation for their generosity last year. He noted that the Council has approved a balanced budget for 2022 and recommends it to the congregation. The income actually slightly exceeds the expenses. He reported that the average pledge received for 2022 was a record setting \$88.25 per week. For the year this equates to a total of \$321,226 from 70 pledgers. He also thanked 36 non-pledgers who are collectively projected to give \$70,550, which is about \$12,800 more than what was projected from 39 non-pledgers during 2021. There were a couple of items he specifically pointed out in the new budget. He noted the continuing generosity of the congregation

(Continued on the next page.)

allowed Bethany to designate 14% of the budget in support of our "Social Outreach & Mission" partners. The pastor and the choir director will receive 2% raises in the proposed budget. He went on to point out this will be Pastor Paul's first pay raise since 2019. The bookkeeper will receive a \$1 an hour raise. Rohrscheib also pointed out the new budget line on page #3 for a Children & Family Coordinator that President Doug Love mentioned during his President's report. Rohrscheib then asked if there were any question about the proposed budget. David Ballaine asked about competing trends, fewer givers but more given. He asked if the Council has discussed this. Vicki Browning as Vice President of the Council agreed it was a concern. As some congregations are still not meeting in person for worship, she feels Bethany should take this opportunity to help families find a new church home at Bethany. Sonja Selboe commented that the new families would add to the congregation but not necessarily monetarily. Martha Shonkwiler expressed concern that the video line item had been zeroed out. As a new member she had enjoyed the online services. Marlene Orwiler raised a question about the Rachel Circle line item in the budget, and she was referred to Treasurer Jim Rohrscheib for an explanation. President Doug Love then called for a vote to approve a 2022 spending budget of \$409,691. The budget was approved.

•ELECTION OF NEW CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS – Doug Love is retiring from the Council. The following individuals have been nominated for election to the Congregation Council: Lynn Nordby, Kristi Sutton (first terms) and Allen Lang (second term). All three individuals were elected by the congregation.

•ELECTION OF 2022 NOMINATING COMMITTEE – The congregation elected the following individuals to serve on the Nominating Committee: Linda Newlon, Wayne Daley and Alice McCain.

•AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE – David Swartling gave an update on the work of the Affordable Housing Task Force. There will be an informational gathering after worship on February 5, and a letter will be sent in the upcoming week about mobilizing community support for the work currently underway in the Bainbridge Island city Council and Planning Commission. By way of background, a formal request was submitted to the City of Bainbridge Island in May 2021 for an "increased density bonus" as provided in a 2019 state statute. The City Council finally took up the request in October and forwarded it to the Planning Commission to draft a "pilot" ordinance. The next meeting of the Planning Commission is on February 10. David Swartling continued by explaining that local architect Jonathan Davis has made great contributions towards realizing Bethany's long-time vision for affordable housing on its property. Significantly, he recommended a re-examination of a preliminary septic analysis, and it showed that Bethany's property could support not one but two septic systems that would allow up to 28 two-bedroom units. In addition, he participated in discussions with Phedra Elliott, Executive Director of Housing Resources Bainbridge (HRB) which disclosed an acute need for not just studio and one-bedroom homes, but also three- and four-bedroom homes! This background information will inform next steps, but in the near future the key variable will be the number of homes authorized by the City of Bainbridge Island. David Swartling then indicated that there have been two other important developments in the past year. One was receipt of a \$20,000 Grace Grant from the Northwest Washington Synod, which provides seed money for preliminary work outside of the budget. In addition, the City of Bainbridge Island has received federal ARPA funds and designated \$3.75 million for affordable housing, and \$1.75 million of that remains unallocated. Thus, while the table continues to be set, there has been important progress in the last year!

(Continued on the next page.)

•NEW BUSINESS – RECOGNITION OF A BETHANY VOLUNTEER – Pastor Paul presented to following resolution in recognition of Jeff Jensen. The resolution was approved by a round of applause.

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 sound 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 of Sound Mind and Body, is 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.

•CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, Pastor Paul invited everyone to say the Lord's Prayer together as a closing prayer. President Doug Love adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Path Forward is Becoming Clearer!

By David Swartling and Tom Croker, affordable housing task force members

As the calendar turns to 2023 and we enter the season of Epiphany, a path forward for Bethany's long-time vision for affordable housing has become increasingly clear thanks to a number of important developments in the last few months of 2022. Indeed, several epiphanies have helped clarify next steps.



As reported last year, in May 2021 Bethany applied to the City of Bainbridge Island (COBI) for an "increased density bonus" under a 2019 Washington State statute that mandates such a bonus for religious organizations seeking to build affordable housing on their properties. Preliminary site capacity analysis to determine the extent of such a density bonus was funded in part from a \$20,000 Grace Grant from the ELCA's Northwest Washington Synod (the second \$20,000 Grace Grant received from the Synod for Bethany's affordable housing efforts!). After numerous meetings of the Planning Commission and City Council, as well as hundreds of supporting communications from individuals and community leaders, the City Council finally adopted Ordinance 2022-02 in late October. Although the Ordinance is very detailed and contains numerous requirements to be met, it authorizes a pilot project for Bethany to construct up to 24 units of affordable housing on its property!

The second significant development in late 2022 was receipt of a \$100,000 grant from the Housing Action Fund of Bainbridge Community Foundation (BCF). This grant was requested to undertake further site capacity analysis, and to begin other steps that will eventually be required to obtain a plat or equivalent for development of the property.

A third development occurred late last year that provides both direction and impetus for planning. The General Counsel of the ELCA advised us that Bethany can create a limited liability corporation (LLC) which would be exempt from federal tax under the ELCA's group exemption with the IRS. This has inspired conversations with Housing Resources Bainbridge (HRB) about entering a memorandum of understanding to explore cooperatively creating such an entity, as well as a discussion with a local attorney regarding next steps. Taken together, these developments better position Bethany to be able to apply for \$1.75 million in federal ARPA funding allocated by COBI for affordable housing, but not yet designated to any recipient.

Last year, Bethany's Affordable Housing Task Force ended its report by saying "Stay Tuned" because 2022 could be a game-changing year at Bethany. It was, and now 2023 provides a unique opportunity for Bethany to move forward and to translate its long-time vision into reality. Again, Stay Tuned!

On the web

■ For more information, go to bethanyofbainbridge.org and tap on the Affordable Housing tab at the top.

ALTAR GUILD

Continuing Through a Year of Change

By Gail Christensen, chair

The Altar Guild is an integral part of Bethany's community. Altar Guild continued in its role of seasonal preparation of Bethany's worship space, coordinating decorations for Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. We are particularly grateful for the congregation's generous support of the flower purchases for Easter and Christmas, as well as the weekly flower arrangements that enhanced our worship experience all year. Our challenge this year was the sanctuary remodel. We removed everything from the sacristy storing some totes in the quilt room and putting the items needed for service in one of the Fellowship Hall cupboards. The new worship place was a challenge for all of us in setting up for communion each week. By the end of the year, we had restored the communion items in their place in the sacristy. We are thankful for the refurbished and clean cupboards and workspace for these items.



Officers for 2021-2022

Chair

Gail Christensen

Secretary

Vickie Bech

Treasurer

Barbara Swartling

Scheduler

Nancy Wetzler

Supplies

Barbara Michael

Flowers

Gail Christensen &

Rachel Pritchett

Altar Guild financial report for 2022

Description	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
Beginning balance Jan. 1, 2022			\$2,632.88
Altar Guild meeting offerings	111.00		
Easter Lily, Poinsettia and Flower Fund donations transferred			
from Bethany operating account	1,345.00		
Miscellaneous gift (from Myrna Johnson)	100.00		
Total receipts	\$1,556.00		
Reimbursements to AG members			
for altar-flower expense		279.43	
Epiphany 2022 Expenses		-0-	
Easter 2022 Lilies & Flowers		392.58	
Christmas 2021 Poinsettias		164.34	
Christmas 2022 Poinsettias		183.00	
Mary & Martha auction donations/expense		471.13	
Sacristy Supplies		37.06	
Total disbursements		\$1,527.54	
Ending balance Dec. 31, 2022			\$2,661.34

Note: This report represents a summary of Altar Guild account activity for 2022. Figures are subject to reconciliation with Wells Fargo Bank year-end statement and Bethany's financial database. Report by Barbara Swartling, Altar Guild treasurer

BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Bible Study Evolving into a Book Group

By Pastor Sonja Selboe

The Women's Bible Study group has evolved into a book study group. The books by religious writers pertain to our stage in life or to ecological topics or to world events. We finished the "UNIVERSAL CHRIST" book by Richard Rohr begun in latter part of 2021. In February we began meeting in person in the Fellowship Hall, bidding farewell to ZOOM meetings. What a good feeling to be back together again. "Jesus and Non-Violence" by Walter Wink began in February. Because of the beginning of the war in Ukraine, we decided to use it to finish the spring months with this apropos topic. In June we had our annual potluck luncheon in Alice McCain's spacious yard. In September we sunk our personal experiences into Joan Chittister's "The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully." Considering the visibly changing climate, in December we swam into "In Deep Waters: Spiritual Care for Young People in a Climate Crisis". Reading what the younger generation is thinking and saying about their future was heart-rending.



Our group meets the second Monday (at 9:30 a.m.) of each month except during July and August. For more information, call Pastor Sonja at 360-297-1779 or Alice McCain at 360-328-0920. Feel free to leave a message.

Men's Bible Study Meet with Pastor Paul on Tuesdays

The Men's Bible Study meets once a month on the second Tuesday at 8am in the fellowship hall, studying the Gospel texts from the Sundays before and after we meet. In the late summer Pastor Paul provides blackberry buckle for a breakfast treat, and in other seasons the fare is donuts, cereal, and bananas. The main course, however, is the fellowship surrounding our Gospel conversation. It has felt good to be back to our normal rhythms and we welcome all who would like to join us.



BOY SCOUTS

Bethany's Troop is Thriving

By Doug Dudgeon, chartered organization representative, Troop 1565

Bethany's Scout troop returned to regular operations in 2022, the troop's 54th year of operation. This year's activities included river rafting, snow caving, hiking, camping, spelunking, summer camp in Montana, and service (including blackberry removal on the church property). Many of our older Scouts experienced a week and a half of wilderness backpacking at the famed Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Thanks to community patronage, Scouts earned enough from their Christmas tree lot to almost cover the cost of summer camp in 2023 on the Oregon coast.

Out of a membership of between 29 and 35 youth, 21 Scouts advanced in rank in 2022, including three Scouts who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

After 7 years of service, Dan Miller retired from the role of Scoutmaster in August. Dan was succeeded by Nathan Oestreich, previously the troop's Committee Chair, and Nathan's old role has been assumed by Nicole Bavo. The troop is grateful for Dan's faithful leadership and for the adults who continue to guide the troop's operation. The Scouts of Troop 1565 and their families thank the congregation for its gracious, continued support.

Doug Dudgeon
Chartered Organization Representative, Troop 1565



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Thank you for your service in 2022.



**Vicki Browning,
President**



**Paul Stumme-
Diers,
pastor**



**Lynn Nordby,
vice president**



**Jennie Harris,
secretary**



**Jim
Rohrscheib,
treasurer**



Burton Shields



Eve Curtis



Harry Wetzler



Allen Lang



**Ann Howard
Lindquist**



Allie Paulson-Houser

CROP WALK

Bethany Walks the Walk; Total is Over \$45,000

The Bainbridge Island/North Kitsap CROP Walk was held on Sunday, September 25th, with the Bethany youth continuing their course set up responsibilities. In this annual interfaith effort, Bethany led the way by raising \$4,665, an amount matched by a generous donor. The Walk raised over \$15,000 and with a double match over \$45,000 goes toward hunger relief. Funds raised support Church World Service in its global hunger work, and locally Helpline House and Fishline. A big thank you to Chris Christensen, who for years has provided leadership to this event.

IN MEMORIAM



**Florence Gubsch
3/19/22**



**Carlton Anderson
4/3/2022**



**Margot Jacobs
6/20/22**



As always, the Memorial Garden will be open for your moments of silence. If you would like to inquire about space, please call the office.

MUSIC

The Joy of Singing Together

By Sylvia Cauter, Music Director

Many thanks to all of the Bethany choir members who have faithfully served as music ministers this past year. They have joyfully shared their voices as choir members, cantors, and worship participants. I am blessed to be surrounded by loving, kind, and generous folks who are always willing to fill in as ushers, coffee hour hosts, communion assistants and whatever else is needed to be done during a worship service.



We continue to meet on Wednesday nights at 7 PM to sing, laugh, and share fellowship with one another. New members are always welcome, and the best news is you don't have to audition!



PRESCHOOL

Bethany Preschool – Back to Normal!

By Katie Drovda, director

I am thrilled to report that we were able to open as “normal” this past September. It’s been so wonderful to have our classrooms full of bustling and busy preschoolers again this year.

Among our three classes, we serve thirty students from the Bainbridge Island/Suquamish/Poulsbo area. We continue to welcome younger siblings of returning families as well as several families who have re-located to Bainbridge Island. Additionally, many of our current families have already made the decision to continue at Bethany and re-enroll for next year.

As always, our teachers are the foundation of our program, and we are so thankful to have our teachers return year after year. Allie MacDonald and Rachel Running continue to teach the Grasshopper class this year, Valerie Johnson and Missy Rehder have continued with the Fireflies, and Brooke Russell and Missy Rehder lead the Bumble Bee class. We are excited to have welcomed Julianne Haggart to our staff to fill in for Miss Brooke for the rest of this year, as Brooke has travelled to New Zealand with two of her daughters for a study abroad experience. Finally, Selina Johnson continues to serve behind the scenes as our bookkeeper, and we are thankful she continues to work as a substitute teacher when called upon.

I am also especially grateful for our Preschool Advisory Board. Pastor Paul, Dede Knapp, Missy Rehder, Kristi Sutton, Vanessa Christoff, and Leanne Wetzal have been a huge source of guidance and support. Kristi has been especially helpful in her work as a liaison between the Preschool Board and the Church Council. With her help, we have been able to tackle a number of maintenance items this year.

Finally, I am thankful for the support of the church, which enables us to have such a quality program for students on the island.



(Preschool financials are on the next page.)

Preschool financials

	2021/22 budget	2021/22 actual	2022/23 proposed
INCOME			
Tuition	\$68,310.00	\$58,834.00	\$68,310.00
Snack Fee	—	\$2,805.00	\$2,500.00
Lunch bunch	\$4,160.00	\$3,086.00	\$4,160.00
Materials fees	\$2,700.00	\$2,577.00	\$2,700.00
Application fee	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,000.00
Registration deposit	\$7,440.00	\$8,820.00	\$7,440.00
Donations	—	—	—
Interest	—	\$173.49	—
TOTAL INCOME	\$83,610.00	\$29,588.36	\$83,610.00
EXPENSES			
Payroll wages	\$64,000.00	\$64,670.62	\$64,000.00
Payroll taxes	\$4,900.00	\$4,279.93	\$4,900.00
L&I taxes	\$1,500.00	\$922.00	\$1,500.00
Paychecks fees	\$1,000.00	\$1,421.70	\$1,100.00
Insurance	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Phone	\$1,000.00	\$1,082.02	\$1,000.00
Repairs/maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$250.64	\$1,500.00
Capital improvements	\$1,750.00	\$1,573.94	\$1,750.00
Supplies	\$3,500.00	\$4,040.32	\$3,500.00
Events	\$1,000.00	\$573.65	\$1,000.00
Student memorabilia	\$650.00	\$353.46	\$650.00
Consultants	\$750.00	\$130.00	\$750.00
Donation to church	\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$84,900.00	\$82,548.28	\$84,900.00

Checking account balance: \$23,391.02

Contingency account: \$27,379.27

Certificate of deposit (Tuition advance): \$9,031.94

RACHEL CIRCLE

Fellowship through Service

127 quilts, 103 baby kits and 66 school bags were shipped.

By Jennie Harris

Though there have been challenges again this year, your Rachel Circle has again been very busy creating and compiling things to be sent across the world. These items are blessings to refugees and those in need, young and old. These wonderful women put their all into their product and enjoy a sense of true fellowship. Even those who can simply pin or tie knots are gladly welcomed. Many hands make light work, as the old saying goes. We have elected new officers this year, Jennie Harris as president, Eve Curtis as treasurer and Martha Shonkwiler as secretary.

Again this year, we want to thank you all for your donations; we couldn't do it without you!

■ **Baby kits:** The quilters have been busy all year in spite of the cramped space when worship was in the fellowship hall. We have worked every Tuesday, even working most of the summer. Thanks to your help, we were able to ship 127 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. These will give warmth and cheer to people around the world.

We also auctioned off three beautiful quilts made by Gladys Schulz. With that money, we were able to send \$450 to Lutheran Relief for Ukraine. We donated \$50 to Gather Magazine, who provides our Bible study. We were also able to sell two quilts.

All in all we have had a great year providing warmth for people in need, as well as having a good time and enjoying each other's company. Please come join us. It's easier than you think, and you'll have a good time. Submitted by Carol Fenner

■ **Baby kits:** As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child." The village responded in many ways contributing clothing, money, skills and time to provide a total of 103 Baby Care Kits for LWR in 2022. Thanks to Bethany budget, Bethany members donations, and Thrivent Action Funds for contributing much needed dollars. Rachel Circle members and other caring individuals, contributed towels, soap, baby socks, new and used clothing, time by sewing, cutting, and helping to assemble and pack the kits! This project would not be possible without you!

Thanks be to God! Submitted by Marlene Orwiler

■ **School kits:** This year Bethany Lutheran volunteers worked to complete 66 LWR school kits to send to children around the world! Many hands have made this project a success. In addition to school supplies donated by generous individuals, this project benefited from a grant from Bethany's Endowment Fund and a 2022 Thrivent grant of \$250. On October 18 a group of 8 women finished and filled the colorful fabric book bags that were sewn by volunteers. Rachel Circle quilts, baby kits and school kits were displayed during worship on October 29-30, then packed and taken to Seattle for the LWR Ingathering. Bethany's school kits are being shared worldwide by LWR, helping more children to attend and succeed in school. Submitted by Alice McCain

(Continued on next page.)

Rachel Circle financials for 2022

Income

Quilts (Bethany Budget)	\$400.00
Quilt Auction & Sales	\$555.00
Baby kits (Bethany Budget)	\$325.00
Baby Kits – Thrivent Card	\$250.00
School Kits – Thrivent Card	\$250.00
School Kits - Offering	\$22.00
Rachel Circle Offering	\$185.00
Shipping offering	\$289.00
Total Income	\$2,276.00
Add balance from 2019	\$1,970.99
Total of all funds	\$4,246.99

Expenses

Quilting – batting, fabric, needles	\$408.27
Baby Kits – clothes, soap, towels, pins	\$1,222.85
School Kits	\$488.10
Shipping	\$746.00
Donation to LWR	\$450.00
Donation to Gather Magazine	\$50.00
Total of all expenses	\$3,365.22

2022 year-end balance for all Rachel Circle

Balance of quilt fund	\$1,557.02
Balance of baby kit fund	\$725.67
Balance of school bag fund	\$207.90
Rachel Circle Offering	\$185.00
Final total	\$2,695.59



Rachel Circle members working on a quilt



School kits ready for blessing



Baby kits ready for blessing



Rachel Circle members celebrate their work

SOCIAL OUTREACH

Bethany Continues Long Legacy of Giving

Here’s where just some of Bethany’s social-outreach and mission funds go, as well as the current status of the Bethany Mission Endowment Fund:

Social outreach and mission

Compass Housing Alliance	\$4,000
Helpline House	\$5,000
Island Volunteer Caregivers	\$1,000
Martha & Mary	\$1,000
Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA	\$42,000
Lutheran Community Services	\$1,000
Faith Advocacy Network	\$1,000
Lutheran Peace Fellowship	\$1,000
Reconciling Works	\$250
World hunger (ELCA)	\$1,000
Rachel Circle	\$400
Baby Kits (Lutheran World Relief)	\$325
Total	\$57,975

Status of Bethany Mission Endowment Fund

As of Sep. 30, 2022

ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust	\$117,439
Bethany Mission Endowment Fund reserve	\$122
Cash value of two insurance policies	\$29,824
Current Bethany Mission Endowment Fund total	\$147,385

The Bethany Mission Endowment Committee made the decision to not have a grant award cycle in 2022 in light of the downturn in the stock market.



Donating baskets for the Martha and Mary auction is just one of the ways Bethany supported their mission of care for the elderly and children.



A noisy offering collected over \$200 for Helpline House.

SANCTUARY REMODEL

by Rachel Pritchett, Chair, Bethany Design Committee

When we approached remodeling the sanctuary, we knew we were dealing with a space that was special, as a place of worship but also as an architectural gem.

Designed by renowned architect Seattle architect Robert Chervenak and opened in 1962 at the same time as the Space Needle and Bainbridge Library, our sanctuary is a stunning example of mid-century modernism.



We wanted to do the best job we could.

Driving the 2022 remodel was a problem of condensation. We had noticed drops of water coming down from the ceiling. We had to find a cause. Bethany formed a Roof Committee comprised mostly of our architects and builders and headed by Council President Steve Christensen and later Doug Love. An engineer consultant was hired. Room Committee member and Mike Bartunek, a retired architect, provided his expertise. The problem was more complicated than a leak in the new metal roof.

When Bethany had a cedar shake roof, condensation produced by people breathing in the sanctuary presumably rose up through the wood ceiling, up through the seams in the plywood sheathing and tarpaper, and up between the shakes and into the atmosphere.

But the metal roof installed in 2017 created an airtight seal. The roof didn't breathe anymore. Moisture had nowhere to escape, so it dripped down.

You would think that the obvious solution, then, would be to install some big vents. But it turns out that this wasn't the answer. The answer was to create a ceiling that wouldn't allow warm, moist air rising from the sanctuary to hit the underside of the cooler roof, and form condensation. That is, to prevent condensation from forming in the first place.

So we went to work. Roof Committee member Allen Lang volunteered to take down the wood ceiling for salvaging. Then we removed the old, padded insulation. The plywood behind that had very little rot. We caught this in time.

Once we were down to the plywood, we had a clean slate to begin building our new ceiling. First, we sprayed about 5 inches of closed-cell foam insulation all over the plywood, including the joist spaces. We covered that with a layer of gypsum board. Then came paint. We also sealed off the organ loft. Heated air was traveling freely through that opening. Plugging it up meant we no longer were losing that heated air.

What resulted was a sort of balloon lining the inside of the sanctuary with much less permeability. Air and heat coming from the floor vents goes out through the back doors to an air-return flow in the narthex, and the air circles back into the sanctuary and to other parts of the building. Now, moisture remains floating in the air. It's no longer colliding with cooler surfaces above and raining drops down on us. This solves the problem.

(Continued on next page.)

It was evident that since the ceiling was being rebuilt, Bethany should take the opportunity to replace worn and inadequate lighting, audiovisual, paint and carpet. A Design Committee was formed. Members were myself, Benay and Lynn Nordby, Nancy Wetzler, Whitney Lane, Veronika Rohrscheib and Dave Christensen.

We replaced the dim lighting with brighter lighting and more of it. All fixtures are LED. Bethany is using about a third of the wattage as before, even though there are three times more light fixtures. Now, it costs about 11 cents to light the sanctuary for a worship service.

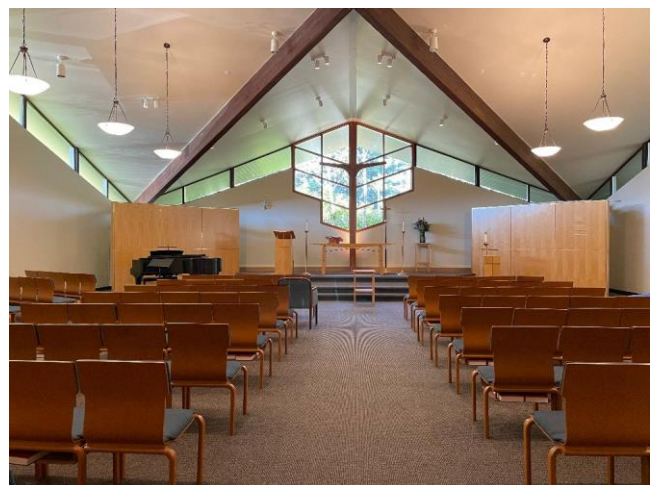
In the audiovisual realm, all of our electronics were relocated to one corner in the back. We took the opportunity to buy and install a new projector and an echo silencer, to prevent occasional echoes and screeching in the sound system. We are waiting on two new large speakers to replace the old ones, due to a delay in the supply chain.

Choosing the best white for the paint was a very fun process. We knew that with the removal of the dark ceiling, the sanctuary would have about twice the amount of white surface. So we leaned toward a darker white, one that had tones of beige and gray. Our goal was a hue that was welcoming and warm. We also had frames of the clerestory windows up above finished and stained, work that wasn't done when those windows were upgraded several years ago.

As for carpeting, we chose to go much darker than before, in order to offset all the white on the walls and ceiling and to hide stains. We chose a multi-hued dark blue, and had padding installed to increase the comfort level.

We had all of the chairs cleaned top and bottom.

The funding allotted for this project was \$150,000. Most of that – 56 percent or \$84,380 – came from fundraising in 2022. At this writing, we are below budget. There were 20 family units at Bethany who contributed. Treasurer Jim Rohrscheib said due to that generosity, Bethany was able to avoid going to a lender to get this project done.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Compiled by Jim Rohrscheib, treasurer

While the number of pledgers has decreased from 110 in 2010 to 63 in 2023, the average pledge has increased from \$61.21 to \$84.74. Overall, the total amount of 2023 projected giving has decreased from \$388,639 in 2010 to \$347,751 expected in 2023. As can be seen in the data below, giving at Bethany remained strong throughout the pandemic. In both 2021 and 2022, actual giving exceeded the expected amount.



The Bethany Church Council is extremely grateful to the congregation for the commitment to our community. Because of you, Bethany has been able to continue worship, Bible study, and other programs. We have been able to support our staff and honor our commitments to the ELCA and partner ministries. And we have been able to budget for 2023 with optimism as the church council and staff are committed to membership growth.

Our deepest gratitude and a huge thank you to all who gave in 2022!

2023

65 pledges were received for \$286,436.

The median pledge is \$58 per week.

The average pledge is \$84.74 per week.

30 non-pledgers are expected to give \$61,315.

95 total contributors are expected to give \$347,751.

2022

70 pledges were received for \$321,226.

The median pledge is \$55 per week.

The average pledge is \$88.25 per week.

36 non-pledgers are expected to give \$70,550.

106 total contributors are expected to give \$391,776. (Actual giving \$406,807)

2021

77 pledges were received for \$324,516.

The median pledge is \$53 per week.

The average pledge is \$81.02 per week.

39 non-pledgers are expected to give \$57,708.

116 total contributors are expected to give \$382,224. (Actual giving \$390,261)

(2022 Balance Sheet is on the next page.)

2022 balance sheet

ASSETS

Current assets

Bethany dedicated funds banked at Wells Fargo	\$191,325	
Bethany general funds banked at Wells Fargo	<u>\$120,642</u>	
Total funds banked at Wells Fargo		\$311,967
Advance Giving		\$4,500
Endowment fund*		

Endowment reserve	\$122	
Pooled trust	\$117,439	
Insurance policies	<u>\$29,824</u>	
Total endowment fund		<u>\$147,385</u>

Total current assets		\$463,852
Fixed assets	Building and grounds**	\$3,263,000
Total fixed assets		<u>\$3,263,000</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

\$3,726,852

LIABILITIES

Long-term liabilities

Church mortgage	<u>\$251,728</u>	
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Total long-term liabilities		\$251,728
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Dedicated funds payable

Capital improvement fund	\$9,158	
Columbarium maintenance	\$36,630	
Memorials	\$5,798	
Columbarium engraving liability	\$4,603	
Refugee resettlement	\$350	
Fair-trade fair	\$1,606	
In/out various funds	\$7	
Men's retreat	\$3,242	
Music	\$1,850	
Pastor's discretionary fund	\$578	
Vacation Bible school	\$1,707	
Women's retreat	\$769	
Youth servant event	\$12,406	
Rachel Circle	\$289	
South 40 affordable housing fund	\$113,191	
Preschool pass-through	\$1,818	
Altar Guild	\$980	
Adult/family events	\$70	
Special Outreach	\$195	
Helpline House	<u>\$419</u>	
Total dedicated funds payable		<u>\$195,471</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$447,199

EQUITY

\$3,279,653

TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

\$3,726,852

* Note: As of September 30, 2021

** Note: Church Mutual insured value