



You received this publication because you belong to our Bethany family, or you recently visited us/participated in one of our activities such as VBS. If you feel you have received this publication in error or no longer wish to receive it, please call us at 360-876-1300 or send email to: [bethany.lutheran@wavecable.com](mailto:bethany.lutheran@wavecable.com). Thank you.

## Bits & Pieces:



### BLES SCRIP PROGRAM:

Earn free money by using gift cards! "Scrip" is another name for "gift cards". You purchase prepaid gift cards that are used just like cash. We stock many of your favorite retailer's gift cards on hand. To purchase cards we currently have in stock, see Becky Bergemann or Sarah Gullixson before and after school or before & after church.

If we don't have what you're looking for, use a regular order form to place an order. The list of retailers and extra order forms may be found in the office, on the board across from the office, and on the Scrip bulletin board near the school entrance. Just leave your order form and payment in the office or hand to Becky/Sarah. Cards are ordered weekly on Tuesdays, normally coming in approximately 5-7 days.

**HOW WE EARN \$\$\$:** Bethany buys the gift cards at a discount. Your family purchases them at face value. The difference is the money Bethany makes. The money is then split, with 50% credited back to you in 1 of 6 ways: BLES Tuition for your family, ELHS Tuition for your family, Playground Fund, Basement Fund, Second Pastor Fund, or Youth Group. The remaining 50% goes to running the program and non-budgeted items for Bethany.



### ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED!

Each year member families may sponsor altar flowers for weekly worship. Dates are still available for 2012!

The flower chart is in the narthex next to the stairway door. Cost is \$30 per week; please make payment to Ladies Guild and leave in the office. (You may also provide your own flowers; please speak to Flower Chairman Leslie Kelly for details.) After Monday worship you may take them to an ailing relative, the cemetery, etc.—or leave them for midweek chapel. Thank you!

### VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED:

- 1) **To replace a short section of gutter**
- 2) **To have a new post placed in the ground** for the mailbox.
- 3) **To mow the Bethany lawn**—sign up on the poster on the office window for the week/area of your choice.

Contact Property Chairman Steve McGarr if you can help with any of the above or would like to know other areas to assist. Thank you.

### Bethany Lutheran Church & School

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

151 Tremont St. W.

Port Orchard WA 98366

[www.BethanyLutheranES.org](http://www.BethanyLutheranES.org)

### Regular Worship Services:

Sundays, 8:15 & 11:00AM

Mondays, 7:00PM



# BETHANY BEACON

"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" - Ephesians 4:3

May 2012 Volume 50, Issue 5

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The *Bethany Beacon* is published monthly Sept-May and once each summer. Members may submit items for consideration to the attention of Pastor Pittenger or the office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Items will be considered for publication as space allows and may be edited.

**Editor:** Pastor Tony Pittenger

**Staff Writers:** Paula Walker, Kathy Seals

Bethany Lutheran Church

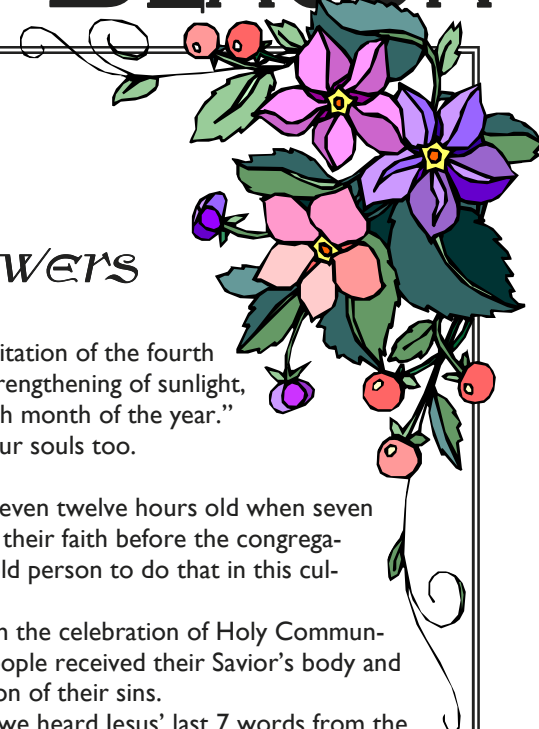
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## April Showers Bring May Flowers



In other words: "The dominant precipitation of the fourth month, combined with the lengthening & strengthening of sunlight, results in the blossoming of plants in the fifth month of the year."

April showers bring May flowers for our souls too.

**APRIL SHOWERS.** The month wasn't even twelve hours old when seven young adults boldly (and bravely) confessed their faith before the congregation. Think of what it means for a 14-year old person to do that in this culture! Praise God!!

That first week of April continued with the celebration of Holy Communion at the Maundy Thursday service. 110 people received their Savior's body and blood and were showered with the remission of their sins.

On Friday the pews were full again as we heard Jesus' last 7 words from the cross.

Easter Sunday began again with communion, 116 people. Then the blessings of a wonderful breakfast, followed by an overflow congregation at Festival Service.

Additionally our children sang numerous times, Palm Sunday and Good Shepherd Sunday have come again, God has flooded our church and school with guests and visitors.

Showers, *downpours* of grace, mercy, and blessings!

**MAY FLOWERS.** With May comes warmer weather, longer days, and of course, the fruit of those showers of God's Word.

In May we observe Jesus' ascension, that He has returned to Heaven to rule all things in the interest of His Church and Her people. (May 20 & 21)

In May we celebrate Pentecost, that God did not keep the news of His Son's death and resurrection locked away in some unknown language, but spread it abroad for all the world to hear. (May 27 & 28)

In May Vicar Willitz find out if he will be going off right away to serve another church as their pastor, or staying with us through the summer and then moving on to serve another church.

In May our school children will present their plays, the fun and lighthearted culmination of hours of hard work. (May 18)

In May our Youth Group have their car wash and garage sale, their continued work to fund all their activities. (May 12 & 25-28 respectively)

As May comes to a close we will be getting ready for the end of another school year, the close of another season of Sunday School, making plans for our new Pre-school teacher to move here, Summer Camp and VBS; all these things will be blossoming as May gives way to June.

Life at Bethany is always as busy as it is exciting. What great fun to take part in the Lord's work! Join us!!

-Pastor Pittenger

## OFFERINGS

### LADIES GUILD

TOPIC: "19-minute Devotions"

DATE: Third Tuesdays

TIME: 7:00pm

### LADIES BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

DATE: resumes Fall 2012

### LYS (YOUTH GROUP)

DATE: First Sundays

TIME: 9:45am

### MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

TOPIC: *What Does the Bible Say?*

DATE: Sept. & Jan.

### SENIOR CHOIR

DATE: Wednesdays

TIME: 7:00pm

### ADULT BIBLE CLASSES

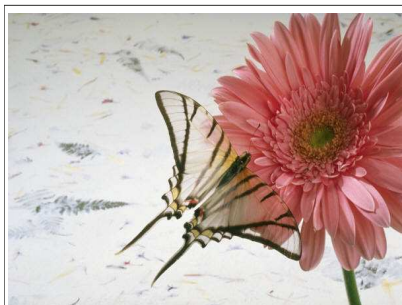
TOPIC: various

DATE: Each Sunday

TIME: 9:45am

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."*

Colossians 3:16



*"I say to myself, 'The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him.'"*

Lamentations 3:24



## Ladies Guild News



Eight ladies attended our April meeting. Nancy Busek read the devotion, "Song of Your Life" (and also provided refreshments). Pastor continued the 19 Minute Bible Study with II Peter 3.

We used a portion of the Guild memorial fund to purchase a new silver-plated pyx to hold gluten-free communion wafers. Currently it will be placed on the altar at the discretion of the pastor.

In March we had an altar care meeting before the Ladies Guild meeting. *Altar Care Chairmen* Kathy Seals & Kathy Ronholt made some updates to the Altar Care guidebook to better explain and itemize the current duties. *Cheer Chairman* Nancy Lorette will be asked to send cards to Pat Harms and Faye Walker. *President* Becky Barton wanted to especially thank all who helped at Spring Cleaning. There are still some cobwebs at the topmost rafter. How to clean them? – cloths on helium balloons? Any ideas? Check with Steve McGarr, property Chairman.

The Confirmation Reception was well attended and the Easter Altar divesting/vesting went well. Two projects we are gathering details on: building short 'screening walls' just opposite each wing wall to provide space for more storage, and having new communion basket pedestals made.

Upcoming is the Ladies Spring Brunch, Saturday April 28th at 10:00am. Ladies are asked to bring their favorite coffee/tea mug and a plate of pastries to share. Our **next meeting** will be held **May 15, 2012 at 7:00pm**. All ladies of Bethany are welcomed and encouraged to join us in fellowship and service to the congregation!

Respectfully submitted, Mary McInnis, Secretary



### YOUTH GROUP GARAGE SALE Memorial Weekend May 25-27

1115 Sidney Ave, Port Orchard

While you are spring cleaning, gather up your gently used household items and help the teens with their travel expenses to Youth Convention. Please call 990-0479 to arrange drop-off...

...Also, many thanks to Thrivent for approving grant funds to match up to \$1600 for the teens—and to the Thrivent Service Team members who will be assisting with this event!

PLANNING IS UNDERWAY for Bethany's 2012

### Vacation Bible School August 6-10

Help is needed from our wonderful Bethany volunteers so all goes smoothly; having our core team of teachers and leaders in place soon will allow us to make decisions together.

If you can assist, or have questions, please contact VBS Coordinator Becky Barton.

### May Anniversaries

- 5/1 Sam & Penny Bell
- 5/4 Wally & Pam Volz
- 5/11 Gary & Linda Nelson
- 5/20 Mike & Ruth Murray
- 5/23 Jeremy & Kelli Gracia  
Dennis & Becky Barton
- 5/29 Bob & Jan Shipman

### WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations and God's blessings to **Zack Seals & Jamie Stuart**, who will be married in Hawaii in May.



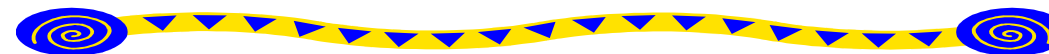
### MOTHER-SON ROCK-n-BOWL SATURDAY MAY 12 5-7PM

COST: \$10 per person

Moms, grab your son(s) and head to Hi-Joy Bowl for this annual event. Fee includes 2 hours of bowling, shoes, prizes and fun! Picture packages will be available for \$5.

Get your tickets in the Bethany office weekdays 8am-4pm; or leave a check (made out to BLES) on the secretary's desk any Sunday and we'll put the tickets in your church box or snail-mail to you.

# BLES News



**Early Learning Center (Janine Thies):** April was a busy month in the Early Learning Center. We did lots of Easter projects and decorated for spring. We were so excited to learn about how Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that we can go to heaven! We welcomed new student, Justine Richardson to our classroom. We are also very excited to start learning our song for the Spring Play!

**Kindergarten (Becky Bergemann):** We have just finished 21 weeks of our Estimating Jar! Each week a different student took the jar home and returned it with 20-100 small items. After estimating the jar's contents, we compared it to items brought in during the previous weeks. We accumulated a wide variety of items, from 27 spider rings to 90 pieces of candy corn! Venture down the hallway to see our Estimating jar display!

**Grades 1-2 (Barb Mantey):** Our main focus this month was our Bible stories. It was sad to hear how Jesus was treated because of our sins. But we know the rest of the story! He didn't stay in the grave...He rose! We all enjoyed getting away for our Easter break. Now that we're back we will be spending a lot of time preparing our two fractured fairy tales for the Spring Program. Miss G. will also be running us through the Presidential Physical Fitness Tests. Time to get in shape! Bring on those May flowers!

**Grades 3-4 (Sarah Gullixson):** "I don't know what to write." "I can't think of anything else." These are two of the comments heard at the beginning of the school year in the 3rd & 4th grade room. Now, as we are finishing the year, these comments are rarely heard. Every other day the 3rd and 4th graders have a writing assignment. Some of the topics include: 'I am not afraid of...' 'I love...' 'Sunny days make me...' , etc. We have also been writing many stories. It is fun reading all of the things they come up with!

**Grades 5-6 (Melissa Pittenger):** We recently finished the book "A Single Shard" and were able to take a field trip to Seattle to see the play at the Seattle Children's Theater. It was wonderfully done and Bethany, you should be quite proud of how your students conducted themselves in our community as they represented our church and school and our Savior! We're looking forward to trying our hand at pottery, a great connection to the story, under the tutelage of our own resident potter, Vicar Willitz (check out his work sometime—he has it on display in his office). We've spent some time exploring poetry too. Some of our responses to poems are hanging in the hall.

**Grades 6-8 (Tim Thies):** Have you ever wondered what it would be like to travel to the Amazon? What might the view be like high atop Pikes Peak? Are there truly any "wild" places left on Earth? On Tuesday, May 1st, these are some of the questions the upper graders hope to answer as they travel to Benaroya Hall in Seattle for a special one-day presentation called "Being There". During this presentation, one of National Geographic's most dynamic speakers and photographers, Mattias Klum, will take the students on a multimedia exploration of many of the world's last fragile, remote, and truly wild habitats.

Can you believe it? Vicar Willitz's year with us is almost complete! Time for a **Vicar Appreciation Brunch Potluck!**

**Sunday, May 20th 9:30-10:45am**

**Join in thanking Luke for his service & congratulating him on his graduation!**

Each family is asked to bring something sweet or savory in a sharable potluck size.

*Juice and coffee will be provided.*



### COMING EVENTS:

5/4 1-8 Spring Olympics @ Cowan Field

5/11 TELSS Band Concert @ ELHS

5/12 Mom-Son Rock-n-Bowl

5/18 Spring Plays & Program

5/20 Spring Piano Recital

5/25 K-8 Family Day Trip

5/30 K-8 Field Day

