



Bethany Banner

Bethany Community Church, 201 Birch Ave, Grandview, WA- DECEMBER, 2025

Dear Bethany Family,

How many of you have your homes decorated for Christmas? Do you use candy canes to adorn your Christmas tree? Or maybe you give out candy canes as special sweet treats in December. Did you know that you can share the Gospel of Jesus while sharing candy canes with family, friends and even strangers? Here is one candy cane legend.

The Candy Cane Story

A candy maker wanted to make a candy that would be a witness for his Savior, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. The white symbolizes the Virgin Birth (**Isaiah 7:14 & Luke 1:26-27**)

***Isaiah 7:14:** "Therefore, the Lord Himself will provide a sign: A virgin shall conceive and give birth to a son, and he will be called Immanuel."*

***Luke 1:26-27:** "In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to marry a man named Joseph, a descendent of David. The virgin's name was Mary."*

and the sinless nature of Jesus (**I John 3:5**).

***I John 3:5:** "But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin."*

The hardness of the candy symbolizes the Solid Rock (**I Corinthians 10:4**), the foundation of the Church (**Matthew 16:18**) and the firmness of the promises of God (**Psalms 18:30-32**).

The candy maker made the candy into the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior (**John 3:16-17**), and a symbol to represent the staff of the Good Shepherd (**John 10:14**).

The Candy maker decided to stain it with red stripes, representing the stripes Jesus received prior to His crucifixion (**Mark 15:15-20**) for our healing (**Isaiah 53:5**).

The large red stripe represents the shedding of His blood on the cross for our salvation (**Romans 5:9 & Ephesians 1:7**).

Romans 5:9: *“Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through Him!”*

Ephesians 1:7: *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that He lavished upon us.”*

Please enjoy a very Blessed Advent and share the Good News that Christmas brings with the story of the Candy Cane (there are a few more scriptures that you can look up).

Love, Terry Dahlstrom

A Few Candy Cane Fun Facts

1670s: A choirmaster at Cologne Cathedral in Germany bent straight sugar sticks into the shape of a shepherd’s crook to give the children in his choir.

1847: German immigrant August Imgard brought the candy cane tradition to America, decorating a small blue spruce in Wooster, Ohio, with white candy sticks.

Around 1900: The red-and-white stripes and peppermint flavor became common, though no single inventor is known.

1920’s: Bob McCormack started making candy canes in Albany, Georgia.

1950’s: McCormack’s brother-in-law, Gregory Keller, invented the Keller Machine, which automated the process of twisting, striping, and cutting the canes, making mass production possible.

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

God bless you all as we celebrate that he has Risen and Lives!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24

4 p.m.

A traditional Christmas Eve service will be held

Wednesday December 24 at 4 p.m.

Candles, carols, scriptures, prayers, and fellowship

Please bring your family and friends!

Praying in these difficult times is so important to keep us connected. If you have prayer requests please call (1) the church office (509)882-3576 or (2) Joanie Bertram (509)840-1632 or (3) call your Deacon.

Stetson Taxdahl family

Heather Bren

Amy Nunez (Lara)

Maxine & Dave Ballinger

Mark Longfellow

Assisted Care: – Evelyn Floyd, Jean Wyckoff, Betty Carlyle, Lucille Norling, Karen Gustafson, and Edith Higgins.

WORSHIP LEADERS: DECEMBER, 2025

HEAD USHER: Tim Smith

GREETERS:

December 7: Judy Rice, Jamison, Stone, Remy

December 14: Ed Erickson

December 21: Tim, Robin, Tom Smith

December 28: Terry Dahlstrom

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

December 7: Judy Rice

Dec 14: Robin Smith

Dec 21: Terry Dahlstrom

Dec 28: No Children's Church

Operation Christmas Child : 2025 saw our Church packing 51 boxes that were delivered to the distribution center at The Barn Church outside of Prosser. They reported that exactly 700 boxes were collected from our area.

A huge thank you goes to Janet for the plastic boxes, the many boxes of soccer balls and pumps, the many items to put in the boxes, and for the many who took a box filled it with goodies and returned them to the church. Donations were received to cover the cost of getting each box delivered throughout the world. Please continue to pray for each box, the staff involved in getting the boxes delivered throughout the world, and especially for the person who receives it.



All Church Christmas Lunch

Congregational meeting

Sunday December 21

11 am

Immediately after the service on Sunday December 21 a congregational meeting will be held to elect new deacons and elders for 2026. Following the meeting we will gather for an all-church lunch provided by the session.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this Christmas gathering.

Pecan and Almond Sale

The women's association annual nut sale is almost over. There are still a few bags of **chopped pecans** and **toasted /salted pecans** available for sale. Thanks for your support in purchasing nuts each year.

New Christmas Tradition

Beginning December 1st read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!!



Young Adult & Adult Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

It's Back! Young Adult & Adult Sunday School

Please join us for a video and discussion style Advent Bible Study before worship at 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside room at Bethany Community Church.

The Marvel and Miracle of Advent: Recapturing the Wonder of Jesus Living With Us.

Join Bible teachers Christine Caine and Lisa Harper for a four-session video Bible study like no other. Your hope and spirit will be revived as you recapture the wonder of Jesus' obvious love for you. You'll discover that Advent is not only a season of waiting and preparation, but it's also a season of action to share the hope of Jesus with everyone.

- December 7: Session 1. "The Longing in the Silence."
- December 14: Session 2. "The Practice of Hopeful Waiting."
- December 21: Session 3. "Emmanuel: God With All of Us."
- December 28: Session 4. "This is Just the Beginning."



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Ed Erickson

3 Aggie McPherson

3 Samaya Nunez (Lara's granddaughter)

4 Hope Fay

9 Barbara Olmstead

14 Brianna Diaz

16 Liam Rosas(Lara's great grandson)

16 Sarah Fay

17 Joy Fay

26 Kathy Ellertson

29 Dave Copeland

30 Pauline Shenyer



Town Hall

December 7

Following church service

The goal of the Town Hall is to give the congregation a clear picture of the paths available and allow time for prayerful consideration and open dialogue.

The focus of our meeting will be on listening, praying, and discerning where God is leading Bethany Community Church next. We will be looking for feedback and additional thoughts or ideas on our path moving forward.

We thank you all for your commitment to our church family during this important season in the life of Bethany Community Church.

**The session of Bethany Community Church
Jason, David R, Refugio, Mary Lee, Robin**

	1	2 Men's Bible Study 9 a.m.	3 Hispanic Bible study 7 p.m.	4 Prayer Team 9 a.m.	5	6
7 Sunday School 9 a.m. TOWN HALL MEETING 11am Worship Service 10 a.m. Communion/ Benevolence Hispanic Service 1 p.m.	8	9 Men's Bible Study 9 a.m.	10 Hispanic Bible study 7 p.m.	11 Prayer Team 9 a.m.	12	13
14 Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Hispanic Service 1 p.m.	15 Gideon 6 p.m.	16 Men's Bible Study 9 a.m. Session 7 p.m.	17 Deacons 1 p.m. Ruth's Circle 1:30 p.m. Hispanic Bible study 7 p.m.	18 Priscilla's Circle 7:30 a.m. Prayer Team 9 a.m. .	19	20
21 Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Congregational mtg. 11 am All church Christmas lunch Hispanic Service 1 p.m.	22	23 Men's Bible Study 9 a.m.	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4 p.m.	25 Christmas	26 Church office closed	27
28 Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Hispanic Service 1 p.m.	29 Church	30 Men's Bible Study 9 a.m. Office	31 Closed	1/1 Happy New Year 2026 All	1/2 Week	1/3

December 2025

Bethany Community Church

201 Birch Avenue

Grandview, WA 98930

PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR:

December 2025

Paid Staff

**Hispanic Pastor-- Refugio Lara
Administrative Asst. – Volunteer office workers
Custodian---- Tim Smith**

Volunteer Staff

**Director of Music— David Skinner
Treasurer----- Kathy Ellertson
Youth Leaders--- Erny & Amy Nunez
Church Office Phone: 509-882-3576
Fax: 509-882-1872
E-Mail: bethanycommunity1@gmail.com
Website: Bethanygrandview.org**

Ministries of the Church

**Sunday Morning Worship
Praise Team
Women’s Ministries
Adult Bible Study
Men’s Ministries
Youth Group**