

Seek the Treasure

Last month I traveled from Seattle to Alaska. In the 1890s around 100,000 people also set out from Seattle to Alaska. They used different transportation means than I did, and they were going for a different purpose. Gold had been found in Alaska. Prospectors set out from Seattle, hoping to make a fortune. Of the approximately 100,000 who started out, only around 30,000 actually reached the Klondike. Of that number no more than 4,000 struck any gold, and only a few hundred became rich. Far more people became rich by providing transportation and selling supplies to those who had become infected with gold rush fever.

People went to great lengths, seeking after something very few found. Those who did find gold maybe thought all their desires were going to be met. No matter how much gold they found, however, it could not satisfy the deepest needs of their soul.

Isaiah 55 asks, "Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?" (v. 2). In a way, the prophet is asking the fortune seekers of the gold rush and the present day, "Why are you going to so much trouble, seeking after things that won't satisfy?"

Isaiah also gives a gracious invitation: "Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. ... Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near" (v. 2, 6). True riches can be found. All who seek the Lord can enjoy the greatest treasure.

The people of the gold rush took great risks and endured terrible hardships, trying to find gold in the cold, remote regions of the Klondike. Jesus endured greater hardships and went on the far more difficult journey of going to the Cross so that we could find the treasure of the kingdom.

A steamship carrying gold from Alaska docked in Seattle in 1897. People saw the gold nuggets and set out to get some of their own. In a similar way, people who know Jesus ought to live lives that let people know what a treasure it is to have your sins forgiven and be in a right relationship with the Lord. It is great when people see the riches of love, joy and peace in us and then ask where they can find some of that for themselves.

We find the greatest treasure in Jesus, and we continually long for more by seeking to get closer to Him. Those who headed to Alaska in the 1890s thought the pursuit of gold was worth a great sacrifice. The pursuit of Jesus is far more worthy of sacrifice. It's worth giving up time, comfort and material things in order to get closer to Jesus.

Seek the Lord with the determination of the most dedicated person on the gold rush. Trust the promise that "he who seeks finds" (Matthew 7:8). What we find is that faith in the Lord is "of greater worth than gold" (I Peter 1:7). Finding Jesus is worth an all-out search.

—Pastor Craig



Sunday School Rally Day Sept. 8

We'll start the new Sunday School year at 9:30 a.m. outside in the overflow parking lot. Join us for breakfast, singing, games and more as we kick off the school year. Sunday School will continue each Sunday with classes for everyone, from preschool kids to adults. Bring a friend and join us to learn from God's Word and seek the Lord through lessons, music and activities.

We'll also celebrate the start of a new Sunday School year with a BBQ. Stay after the worship service Sept. 8 and come to the overflow parking lot. The meat will be provided. You're welcome to bring other items to share as a potluck.

Women's Missionary Federation (WMF)



The Women's Missionary Federation will meet on Thur. Sept. 19 at 1:00 p.m. at the church. Linda Takalo will lead the Bible study and Jan Hansen will host the dessert. All ladies are invited.

Men's Breakfast Saturday Sept. 7 8:00 a.m.

If you'd like to help prepare the breakfast, please contact Pastor Craig.

Confirmation Starts Soon

Confirmation is two years of instruction in the basics of the Bible. All those who are 6th grade and above are welcome to be part of the class. The class meets once a week for an hour during the school year. Please contact Pastor Craig know if you're interested.

Good News Club

This year's Good News Club will start the first part of October. Good News Club takes place once a week after school at Astor Elementary School. We give thanks for our faithful volunteers who serve each week and invite

more volunteers to join us and help out in this important outreach.

Meet the Missionaries

Missionaries to Mexico, Darwin and Alma Jackson, will be with us on Sunday September 15. The Jacksons serve in the Nogales, Mexico area. They'll be sharing during the Sunday school time and the worship service.

Pastor Craig is Out of Town Sept. 16-20

Pastor Craig will be attending the AFLC All Boards meeting and Pastors Conference in Osceola, Wis. Please contact one of the Deacons listed on the bulletin board across from the sanctuary if needed.

Choir Practice Changes?

We are looking at changing the time and day of our choir practices to Wednesdays. We are considering chimes choir at 4:15 p.m. and vocal choir at 5:00 p.m. Does that work for you?



If you are interested in being part of the choirs, please contact Pastor Craig, our pianist and vocal choir director, Karen McNees, or our chimes choir director, Jan Wolfe.

Have You Seen Our Updated Website?

www.bethanyfree.com

How would you like to get your newsletter in the future?

- ◆ From the website
- ◆ Sent to you via email
- ◆ Printed and posted through the mail.

Just let us know.

Come Celebrate Sunday School!

September 8

9:30 a.m. Breakfast, singing, games and more.

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

12:15 p.m. BBQ Lunch



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