
Bethany Free Lutheran Church Newsletter

MARCH 2020

Combating the Virus of Fear

John Dyrnes attended both seminary and medical school before heading to Madagascar as a medical missionary in 1900. He worked at healing bodies from the many diseases found in that tropical climate and healing souls with the good news of Jesus. He served in Madagascar with the Lutheran Free Church mission until his death in 1943. During those 43 years he only had two furloughs when he made return visits to America. In 1906 he married Sarah Johnson, who was an aunt of Ruth Tollefson, the wife of our congregation's former pastor, Hans Tollefson.

During his first year in Madagascar Dyrnes had the first of seven painful attacks of the often deadly blackwater fever. He recovered but soon after his house burned, taking with it his medical books, instruments and supplies. Eventually friends in the U.S. sent him replacement supplies. Often, however, Dyrnes had to learn to make do, improvise and make some of his own medical instruments.

One of Dyrnes' blackwater attacks came in 1907. It caused him to lose for a time the ability to speak or move, but his sight and hearing was still fine and his mind was clear. He heard the ones who were caring for him say that it appeared the end was near. Dyrnes kept repeating to himself the words of Psalm 23: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." A profound sense of happiness and security came over him. He was content and confident that one of two things would happen to him: either he would live and get to continue the work he loved to do, or he

would go and be with the Lord, which would be even better.

It is the coronavirus and not blackwater fever that is attacking bodies in our day. We face a different disease but we do so with the same faith and hope that Dr. Dyrnes had. We trust in the same mighty and loving God who is able to take care of His children. The Lord has promised: "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday"

(Psalm 91:4-6).

Because God is good and gracious and in control, we don't fear whatever terror or disease comes along. Sadly, we live in a world that is getting swept up in panic about what might happen. When fear takes control of a life all kinds of terrible things can result. People shy away from serving, get suspicious and relationships get damaged. It is so much better and more peaceful to rest in the truth that God is in control. In Isaiah 8:12 the Lord says, "Do not call conspiracy everything this people calls a conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it."

The world is in great need of hearing the good news that we don't have to live in fear. We live in grace and we rest in the love and power of God.

—Pastor Craig

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

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

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

This Christian group of mothers meets downstairs here at Bethany the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Child care provided.

Women's Missionary Federation (WMF)

Mar. 12 1:00 p.m. downstairs at church

Loretta Grothe will lead the Bible study and Judy Fisher will host the dessert.

**WMF District Meeting - Saturday Mar. 28
Atonement Free Lutheran Church - Arlington, WA.
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Luncheon Included**

The District WMF has invited current Home Missions Director James Johnson to share. Please RSVP to Georgia Marincovich or the church office if you are interested in attending.

Youth Group Sunday Mar. 15 6:00 p.m.

Who were St. Urho and St. Patrick? Join us for fun, food and prayer at Pastor Craig's house behind the church and find out. All youth 6th grade and above are welcome.

Soup Suppers

We'll have soup suppers before Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. If you'd like to volunteer to prepare soup one week, please sign up on the church bulletin board across from the sanctuary.

Lenten Services

Lenten services continue on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. until the week before Easter. Lenten Services are a time worship and reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us. This year we will be thinking about the book of Jeremiah and

how this Old Testament prophet pointed ahead to Jesus.

Good News Club

Astor Good News Club meets each Tuesday, 2:20 p.m.-3:30 p.m. here at Bethany. Kids are met at John Jacob Astor Elm. School by volunteers and escorted to church. Parents can then pick up their children downstairs at 3:30 p.m. If you'd like to help, please contact Pastor Craig.

Mission Supplies to Alaska in May

Supplies to support missions in Naknek Alaska will be shipped the beginning of May. Items are needed for The Net coffee house ministry and local villages. See the *Shopping List for The Net* on the bulletin board across from the sanctuary for suggested items. Dates to bring items to church will be announced soon.

Easter April 12 - Invite a Friend!

Breakfast 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School Celebration 9:30 a.m.

Easter Resurrection Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

**Family Bible Camp Lake Stevens WA
June 21-25**

There are 3 ways to access our newsletter.



Online at our website
www.bethanyfree.com



By email



Printed and mailed.

Just let us know what you prefer.
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Happening This Month...

Soup Suppers & Lenten Services Wednesdays

Men's Breakfast Mar. 7

WMF Meeting Mar. 12

Youth Group Mar. 15

