

*Coming This Month...*

*November– 3 Deacons and Trustee Meeting*

*5 Men's Breakfast*

*10 WMF Meeting*

*13 Thanksgiving/Fall Festival Dinner*

*24 Thanksgiving Service*



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451 34th St.  
Astoria, OR 97103

Isn't this good enough?

I tend to be a very pragmatic person. I will fix things so they work, but sometimes my fixes that work, don't work very well, or don't look as good as they used to. When I visited my replacement in Tioga a few months ago, I stopped by our old home. My attention was oddly drawn to a sliding patio door after I had been there for a few minutes. The reason for that was that about a year before we left I had attempted multiple fixes on the latch before fixing it right. My first fix was taking the locking mechanism apart, finding the broken latch, and then drilling a hole in the latch, and then putting a screw in half way. The lock worked, but it looked ugly, and kind of hurt every time you pushed the latch to lock the door. But it worked, and that's all that matters... right (I later fixed it right)?

When I was newly married, and getting ready to move to Minnesota we had two vehicles that we took with us. A 5 year old Nissan Ultima in pretty good shape, and an ugly 15 year old Chevy Cavalier station wagon. The wagon (that Brenda generally refused to drive) had a patched up floor board of cut up paint cans and epoxy putty used to plug the rust holes in the floor, and the door panels had a coating of roof tar, then a layer of scrap sheet metal I was given, which I riveted to the door, then painted with a brush with black Rustoleum paint from a can. I was very proud of my handy work, and that car lasted for another 2 years. All that mattered was that I had a way of getting from point A to point B. It worked, and that's all that matters...right?

Some of you are probably thinking "Poor Brenda" right now. A few are marveling at my ingenuity at fixing things so they work. While most are probably just hoping that I didn't do any "fixes" at the church! But the reality is that there is a fine line between just fixing things so they work, and fixing things the right way. Most would never dream of fixing their car the way I did as a young man. Sure, it would cost a lot more to have a professional repair a rusted-out car, but the end result would be a car that looked as it should. While there is a place for "beater" cars, most don't love owning one.

As a Christian we are faced everyday with how we will live our lives for God. Some will strive to give God their best. They will give God their best time, energy, and money. It doesn't mean that everyone will be living as a missionary, pastor, or be in full time ministry. But it means that whatever these people do for God, they give it their best.

Many if not most take a different approach. They give of themselves to God, only some. They will occasionally spend time with the Lord by doing

devotions. They may put a 20 in the offering plate, and show up to church once in a while. They will sing songs that they like, and those that they don't like, they don't bother with. They give of themselves to God and the church here on earth when it works for them. The attitude of this person is typically, "Isn't this good enough?" Hey I am coming, I am giving, and I even help occasionally. Sure, I look like I just ate a bunch of lemons, but at least I am here.

Is this really what God wants? When David had the Ark of the Covenant moved improperly and a man attempted to keep the Ark from falling and touched it, he was instantly killed. The Ark needed to be moved, what's the big deal if it is moved in a way that God didn't want? Why was God so severe towards that man trying to help. For God, all that matters is never simply did the job get done. He wants us to do the things we are called to do, with a positive and even worshipful attitude. He also wants us to give Him our best. 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Our attitude behind our service is even more important than our service. This truth applies to all areas of our life, not just giving. That is why the end of Romans chapter 2 explains that we should circumcise our hearts not our flesh. Our hearts, or our attitude behind our actions is so important.

The reality I often have taken which is "it's good enough," doesn't work for God. God's standards are perfection. God is holy. God is righteous. God is perfect. And God wants it all. God wants our outward works to match our inner heart. Giving God our best became a practice that started all the way back in the Old Testament times when farmers brought in the harvest and would give to God the first of their harvest. This giving of their first fruits meant that they gave God their best, while also trusting in God to provide for their needs of the future. In the New Testament time that we live in, we can and should expand this first fruit offering of the Lord to all that we give and do for God.

There will be times or seasons in our life where we just don't give God our best. If this is where you are at, recognize the sin, confess it to God, and know that you are forgiven through Christ. However, don't become apathetic and decide that God doesn't deserve the best you have. Because the truth of the matter is that all the blessings we have, even those blessings we have earned through hard work are all gifts from God. Let us all give God our whole heart, mind, and spirit in all that we think, say, and do. For God is worthy.

Pastor Rich Carr

## Worship With Us

8:45 A.M. Glad Tidings Radio 1370 A.M.  
9:30 A.M. Sunday School (all ages welcome)  
11:00 a.m. Worship Services

## Live Stream

We live stream our 11:00 a.m. Sunday worship services on Facebook Live (Bethany Free Lutheran Church) Links can be found on our website: [bethanyfree.com](http://bethanyfree.com). Sermons after can be found on our YouTube -Bethany Free Lutheran, Astoria, Oregon

## Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast and prayer will be November 5th at 8:00 A.M. at the church. If you would like to help with cooking that will start at 7:15 A.M.

## Church Council Meeting

Board of Deacons and Trustees will be meeting Tuesday November 8th at 6:00 P.M.

## WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation (WMF)

Thursday November 10th, at 11:00 A.M. Everyone is asked to bring a sack lunch, all ladies are welcome.



## Bethany Sewing Ministry

Sewing will be November 3rd and 17th at 10:00 A.M. All sewing skills are welcome. A lunch is provided.

## Thanksgiving Worship Service

10:00 A.M. November 24

## Thanksgiving/Fall Festival

Sunday November 13th following church everyone is invited to dinner. Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, rolls, stuffing, and pie will be provided. If you would like to bring a salad or Scandinavian treats to share, that would be welcome.



## Right Now Media

A free online Christian service filled with book of the Bible, kids shows, women's studies, small groups, youth studies and men's studies. If you have not gotten a link sent to you in your email, send an email and we will get you one. [bethanyafc@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyafc@gmail.com)

## Brown Bag Ministry

Every Tuesday at 1:30 P.M. Each week our Brown Bag Ministry prepares as many as 100 or more brown bag lunches that are distributed to the homeless by local nonprofits and individuals. Each lunch is created to feed the body and share the good news of God's love and salvation through Jesus. Join us in packing the bags.

## Praise & Worship Band

We are looking to form a praise and worship band. We are looking for anyone who can play an instrument or sing contemporary worship songs to contact Pastor Rich Carr 971-988-9886. A rehearsal time will be announced once a few people are interested.