

*Coming This Month...*

*September- 7 Deacons and Trustee Meeting*

*8 WMF Meeting*

*10 Men's Breakfast*

*11 Installation of Pastor Carr and Receiving New Member*

*15,22,29 Sewing Ministry*

*15-30 Pastor Carr will be gone*

How will they know?

There is an older “campfire” song that many of us have probably sung back in the day. The chorus basically repeats, “They will know we are Christians by our love.” Not only was this a popular song, but this is also a Biblical concept that is taught in many different locations throughout the Bible. Jesus was definitely harsh and stern with some people in the Bible, yet for the most part those people were the religious leaders of the day that believed they were better than everyone else and needed to be broken over their sins by the use of the law. By and large Jesus showed love and compassion throughout His ministry, and constantly offered the forgiveness only found in the good news of the gospel.

Instead of reminding the tax collector Matthew (known as Levi at the time) that he was messed up and sinful, Jesus called Matthew to follow Him, as well as eating in his house along with other tax collectors and “sinners.” When the publicly unclean people who had leprosy came to Jesus begging to be healed, Jesus often reached out and made a point of touching them and healing them. Jesus made a point of reaching out to people where they were at, and connecting with them. Do we do the same?

Many Christians look around and make remarks about how lost the world seems. People are practically swimming in sin. Why can't more people believe in God, and turn their lives around? Why don't more people see the difference it makes to be a Christian? Perhaps the reason is that many in the world look at

the way we act toward other people and think to themselves that they have no desire to be like that.

Sometimes I see people feeling the effects of their sin and feel like they are getting what they deserve. Freddie Mercury, the late lead singer of the secular rock group Queen, died of AIDS. He contracted the disease from his hard partying ways, and homosexual lifestyle. One could argue that he got the results of living his lifestyle. As messed up as Mercury was, he was created in the image of God, and has an eternity to spend in either heaven or hell. Mercury understood the results of his lifestyle came from his own poor choices. What Mercury needed was not another person reminding him of his past failures, rather he needed someone to model and demonstrate wholesome Christian love.

We are surrounded by Freddie Mercurys. We probably all have non-Christian friends, co-workers, neighbors, and even family who are lost and hurting. What they likely need is not more condemnation, and finger pointing. They need to experience wholesome Christian love from people like you. If we want to see a change in our family, community, and culture we need to provide a model of love, care, and compassion that reflects the love God first showed us, onto others. This summer find creative ways to demonstrate Christ's love, and you might be surprised by the results. For the hardest sinner's hearts can be softened and transformed by the love you demonstrate.

Pastor Rich Carr

## Worship With Us

8:45 A.M. Glad Tidings Radio 1370 A.M.

9:40 A.M. Adult/ Youth 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

## Installation

Sunday September 11th AFLC President Lyndon Korhonen will be here for the installation of Pastor Carr. We will also be receiving new members Larry & Eileen Johnson, Kip & Missy Johnson, Allan & Lynette Vollmer, Todd & Kara Takalo and Melissa Takalo. We will be having a potluck after church.

## Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast and prayer will be September 10th 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 Wednesday September 7th at 6:00 P.M.

## WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation (WMF)



Thursday September 8th, at 11:00 A.M. Loretta Grothe will be leading the Bible study and Linda Killion will be hosting. Everyone is asked to bring a sack lunch, all ladies are welcome.

**Prayer Chain** The prayer chain is being updated, if you would like to be involved contact church (503-325-2925) or Linda Takalo (503-458-6654) or sign up on the bulletin board. You can be notified of prayer requests my phone call, text, or email.

## **Bethany Sewing Ministry**

Sewing will start back up September 15th at 10:00 A.M. All sewing skills are welcome. A lunch is provided. Sewing is every Thursday at 10 A.M.

## **Pastor Carr**

Will be gone September 15-30th if you are in need of pastoral services please contact one of the Deacons. The 18th will be testimonials from the Rescue Mission and the 25th Pastor Gunderson.

## **Newsletter**

Sunset Presort is closing. We will no longer be able to mail with a discount. If anyone would like to switch to an email copy or be removed from our mailing list please email [bethanyaflc@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyaflc@gmail.com) or call the church 503.325.2925 We will still mail hard copies of the newsletter.

## **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. Help will be available for signing up online at church.

## **Sunday School**

**9/18** no Sunday school people will be available help sign up for Right Now Media –pick up your copy of “The Story”

**9/25** Sunday School with Pastor Gunderson-pick up your copy of “The Story”

**10/2** Starting the book “The Story”. *The Bible as one continuing story of God and His People.*