

FEBRUARY-

4 Men's Prayer Breakfast

7 Deacons & Trustees Meet

22 Ash Wednesday Soup and Service



Astoria, OR 97103

451 34th St.

Don't be afraid

When a child has stolen a cookie from the cookie jar and gets caught, most of the time that child is fearful of the consequences and discipline that he or she might receive. As we grow older the fear of consequences and discipline doesn't change. When you see the red and blue lights in the rearview mirror, your heart sinks. While living in Maryland I was involved in a car accident and received a ticket. I went to court to try and reduce the fine and consequences. Standing before the judge over a simple traffic ticket was extremely stressful and scary for me. I can't imagine what it would be like to commit a worse crime and have to stand trial! My point is that no matter our age, no one likes to stand before their accuser, or in front of a judge, or even an angry parent or spouse.

As I was reading through Hebrews for a devotion I was struck by the relationship of Jesus Christ as fully God, yet also as fully man. I was also reminded that Jesus fulfilled a unique office, he became our great High Priest. One of the jobs the high priest fulfilled in the temple worship of God was to intercede to God for the people's sins. Hebrews 4:14 and following explain that Jesus was not just our high priest, but the Great High Priest. One of the reasons why Jesus is aptly called the Great High Priest and not just a high priest is that Jesus offered one sacrifice one time, and that sacrifice covered the entire world's sins. This is magnificent accomplishment alone is amazing.

One of the amazing things about Jesus as our Great High Priest is that He walked in our shoes so to speak. He was fully human. He was tempted in all ways, yet never sinned. Jesus struggled, was attacked by feelings of fear and loss, and even endured horrible pain. Hebrews 4:15 clearly explains this to us, "*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*" (ESV) *We serve a God who got down in the trenches with us, got dirty, experienced what we*

The result of this truth is profound on many levels. But one of the truths that results from Jesus doing what He did is found in the next verse, "*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* (Heb 4:16, ESV) *We come to God's throne room as dirty children who have sinned and fallen so far short. We have every right to be fearful of the judgement of God. However, because of the mercy of God shown to us by our Great High Priest Jesus, we are welcomed into the throne room of God. As we look down at ourselves expecting to see filthy rags resulting from our sins, we see new clothes that are pure white, and radiant. For the Great High Priest has made full satisfaction for our sins.*

Instead of being fearful expecting punishment, we are able to walk right in to God with confidence the Bible says. Through faith in Jesus we are forgiven sinners. Now God sees us as adopted children, who are perfect, holy, and pure. This is not a result of our feeling of sorrow over sin, nor our works to try and make amends. We are forgiven only because God has fully poured out His wrath resulting from our sins on to the sacrifice the Great High Priest has brought forward for us, Himself. God's demands of justice have been met. Now we are imputed or bestowed the full grace, mercy, and forgiveness for all our sins. We in essence have clothed ourselves in the righteousness of Jesus. So next time you are tempted. Next time you fall into temptation and sin. Don't fear God, run to Him. Approach the throne room knowing that Jesus the Great High Priest has taken care of everything!

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. Sermons after can be found on our YouTube -Bethany Free Lutheran, Astoria, Oregon

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast and prayer will be February 4th at 8:00 A.M. at the church. Cooking starts around 7:15 A.M. if you would like to help.

WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation (WMF)



Thursday February 9th, at 11:00 A.M.
Bring a sack lunch, dessert is provided. All Ladies welcome!



Bethany Sewing Ministry

Sewing will be February 2nd, 16th and 23rd at 10:00 A.M. All sewing skills are welcome. A lunch is provided.

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.

The Net in Naknek, Alaska

We will be sending a tote with quilts and supplies to the mission in Naknek again this year. Coffee, coffee supplies and mixes of cookies, brownies and other desserts are needed for the summer coffee house outreach ministry. More information will be coming soon.

Spring Cleaning

We will be sprucing up Bethany with a cleaning day. April 1st at 10: A.M. A job is available for all!



March Board Meeting for All

The March 4th boarding meeting will be at Eric Paulson's Astoria house. Starting at 9:00 A.M. for Board Members. Congregation Members interested in future planning are invited to Lunch at 12:00 P.M. and a meeting to follow at 1:00 P.M. Help us look to the future of Bethany!

Ash Wednesday Service

Lenten Services will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd with Soup and fellowship at 6:00 P.M. and the service at 7:00 P.M. We will have Pastor Tonnes Pollestad and President Pastor Micah Hjermstad. He will be sharing a message with us.

Thank you



Thank You to all that came and helped clean up and put away Christmas!