

Coming This Month...

June-

7 Astoria High School Baccalaureate

14 WMF Day

14-17 AFLC Conference

18 Happy Father's Day

19-23 VBS

23 Family Fun Night

25-28 AFLC NW Bible Camp

Are you feeling overwhelmed and distressed?

I don't know how you are feeling right now, but if I can be honest, I have been distressed and greatly troubled concerning the state of our world, country, and region more than I care to typically admit. I try not to watch too much news because I typically grow despondent over the reporting of what is going on around us. Yet even with my brief skimming of news sites that I tend to peruse, I find myself sometimes being filled with dread and even anxiety. There seems to be a constant war being waged continually somewhere. Then there are rumors of wars with various adversaries that are looming. Nationally there appears to be a relentless pursuit of deviant behavior by our government, corporations, and private individuals that seek to embrace what the Bible clearly explains as sinful and wrong. It is as if people are actively seeking to take anything good, wholesome, and righteous, and call it wrong, destructive, and evil.

What bothers me perhaps the most is that very young children are being targeted by radically evil people in our culture through social conditioning. We once encouraged our children to watch Mr. Rodgers who sang a song telling children that, "Boys who are born boys stay a boy, and if you born a girl you stay a girl and grow up to become a lady." Now we send our kids to public schools that have some teachers and guidance counselors attempting to indoctrinate children as young as two that gender is fluid, and that it is good and healthy to experiment sexually. It seems as if the culture we live in is lifting up all manner of horrible and destructive behavior and beliefs and calling that good. I sometimes wonder how much worse the world was before Noah was rescued by God through the flood. For Genesis 6:11-12 tells us how bad things were then when it says, "Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth."

So the big question is what do we do about it? One of the worst things we can do is throw up our hands and say, I can't do anything to change the culture so why bother. We can sell all we have, buy a bunch of land and live off the

grid. That would probably be a good thing to do for us and any that lived with us. But there are many who can't afford to do that, and we would essentially be giving up to the forces of evil that have pressed their attack. I believe that what God has called us to do is stand up for the truth and fight back.

Stand up and live out our faith in such a way that people see a difference in who we are and how we live. As more and more evil behavior becomes normalized, it will become more and more important for Christians to live as Christ and not as the world. Some of us will be called to be politically involved. Others might be called to mentor a young neighborhood child. Perhaps some will be called to teach in public schools and be a light in an increasingly hostile place for people who follow after Jesus. Spend some time in prayer asking God what He wants you to do, and do it.

For those of you like me who sometimes struggle with finding hope in the midst of this difficult time, I want to leave you with this encouragement written by the Apostle Paul to a church who also was surrounded by horrific sinful behavior. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 says, "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Pastor Rich Carr

Worship With Us

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

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 will be June 3, 8:00 A.M. at the church. Cooking starts around 7:15 A.M. if you would like to help.

Deacons & Trustees Meeting

D&T meeting will be Tuesday June 6, 6:00 P.M

WMF Meeting



Women's Missionary Federation (WMF) Thursday June 8th, 11:00 A.M. Bring a sack lunch, dessert is provided. All Ladies welcome!

Bethany Sewing Ministry

Sewing will be June 1, 15 & 29 at 10:00 A.M. All sewing skills are welcome. A lunch is provided.



Brown Bag Ministry

Every Tuesday, 1:30 P.M. Each week our Brown Bag Ministry prepares as many as 100 or more brown bag lunches that are distributed.

Astoria High School Baccalaureate

Astoria High School will be hosting Baccalaureate in the AHS auditorium @ 7pm on June 7th. We would love to have a large contingent of support from Bethany there to demonstrate God's love and support for those graduates! We (Bethany) are also providing light refreshments (cookies, coffee, etc.) for the attendees after the ceremony. Contact Mickey or Bonnie if you'd like more information or are willing to help provide treats.



Happy Father's Day

Don't forget to wish all the important men in your life a Happy Father's Day June 18th.

Pie Social FLY Fundraiser:



The pie social fundraiser was a great success and lots of fun.

Thank you to all who made pies and other things. Also to the many people who bought and ate yummy pie.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

June 19-23. 9:00am-12:00pm

Preschool - Grade 6 (last grade completed)

This year we team up with Grace Community Baptist Church and host a fun filled VBS in our building.

Registrations may be submitted online, downloaded and printed, or paper copies completed during the week. See our website for details and pick up a post card at church to invite friends.

*Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this VBS. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over."



AFLC Annual Conference 2023

June 14-17 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota
VICTORY IN CHRIST- 1 CORINTHIANS 15:57
More information can be found at www.aflc.org/about-us/conferences

WMF Day 2023

June 14 in Sioux Falls, SD

Rescued and Redeemed - Colossians 1:13-14.
More information can be found at www.aflc.org/women

AFLC Pacific Northwest District

Bible Day Camp June 25-28

UNcommon Joy

Atonement Free Lutheran Church, Arlington, WA More information can be found at www.aflchurch.org/

FLY Youth Convention 2023

July 3-8 **Restored** at Estes Park, Colorado. We will have a group of youth and adults attending.