

Coming This Month...

July -

3-8 FLY Convention

30 Quarterly Meeting



Bethany Free Lutheran Church
451 34th St.
Astoria, OR 97103

Coming soon to a church near you!

Have you ever been watching a show late at night and your eye grow heavy and you start to nod off, then the TV switches to a commercial and the volume somehow seems to be much louder than you realized and the announcer starts off with something like, "Coming soon to..." There is energy, volume, and a sense of urgency. It is as if whatever event is coming is something that you just can't miss, and that if by chance you do miss, your life won't be complete.

Well never fear, I am not about to make those claims, however I do want to say with much energy and a great sense of urgency that this upcoming summer and fall have some really great things in store for you, the good people of Bethany Free Lutheran. While this summer we have some great events planned like the recently completed VBS program, community family fun night, and the soon to be finished youth trip to Colorado; we have more planned for this summer as well. There will be a multigenerational scavenger hunt coming in late July, as well as some other yet to be determined events planned on taking advantage of our amazing weather.

Coming in September we will be launching our small group ministry. This is something that we are looking to get as many involved in as possible. We will be firming up locations and times for this, but we are hoping to get the majority of the church committed to meeting together in a much more informal way in people's homes to have fellowship, Christian instruction, and prayer. There are hoped to be at least 4 different locations that take part on different days and times which will allow people to attend a location that is closer to home and even allow for people to attend more than one group if they so desire. Currently we are looking at having locations in Knappa, Warrenton, Astoria, and Olney.

Also coming soon will be a Sunday night prayer and praise service. After the FLY trip to Colorado finishes there will be a set of rehearsals for people wanting to take part. We will be meeting in the evening on a weeknight. We are currently in need of people willing to sing, as well as instrumentalists. Our goal is to become

proficient enough to begin leading worship once a month. If there is enough demand for this service, I hope to transition this to a weekly service that would allow for a relaxed setting of contemporary praise songs coupled with a preached message. My hope is to offer a unique (to us) worship format at a time that might be more conducive for some people's schedules. Perhaps some from the church will enjoy coming both on Sunday morning, as well as Sunday evening.

Once these new programs are up and running, I hope to be able to have the time to possibly launch even more community based outreach events in our area. Some might be thinking slow down pastor, why the rush? Well as I look out at the area we live in, I am reminded of a farmer that looks at a field full of ripe wheat that is literally ready to fall down and be destroyed if a strong wind or rain were to blow. In fact Jesus said it best in John 4:35b, "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest."

When a farmer has a harvest that is too large to bring in alone, he or she hires helpers. The thought of leaving ripe grain on a field to rot is unheard of in our day. Jesus is returning soon, and many need to hear and experience the good news of the Gospel. All Christians need to be about their heavenly Father's business of bringing in the harvest. Young and old, new to the faith, or grizzled old veterans, let's all pitch in and bring the harvest in. And one of the best ways to do that is to grow in our faith, and invite others to grow along with us!

Pastor Rich Carr

carrsabode@yahoo.com

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 July 1, 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 July 11, 6:00 P.M



WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation (WMF) Thursday July 13th, 11:00 A.M. Bring a sack lunch, dessert is provided. All Ladies welcome!

Bethany Sewing Ministry

Sewing will be July 6,20,27 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.

FLY Youth Convention 2023



July 3-8 Estes Park, Colorado. We will have a group of youth and adults attending. Please keep them in your prayers.

Congregation Quarterly Meeting

Quarterly meeting July 30th after church.

Church Picnic

Will be next month August 27th at Culluby Lake

VBS 2023

The Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme this year was Twists & Turns: Following Jesus Changes the Game.



Using this game based curriculum, kids learned that no matter what ups and downs or twists and turns we experience in the game of life, we can have true victory in Jesus – the ultimate game changer. The theme verse was Psalm 25:4 "Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths."

Partnering with Grace Community Baptist Church, we hosted 64 to 70 kids each day during the week and 20-30 adults and teens who helped. The Joshua Team, from the Free Lutheran Bible College, led the way through singing, teaching and reaching kids in week of fun activities and Bible based learning experiences. Team members included Micah Fairrow, Lydia Niemeyer, Caden Larson and our own Pastor's daughter Maddy Carr. We were blessed to have them join us.

The last day of our VBS included a special Family Fun Night with an excellent BBQ meal prepared by our Pastor Carr, a program highlighting what kids learned during the week and a carnival of fun games for all ages. An estimated 120 people joined in the festivities.

VBS could not happen without all of the people who volunteered to help. We are so grateful to all those who tended to children, provided a food, helped with record keeping and so much more. We are truly blessed to have so many in our community who serve in outreach programs like this.