



Coming This Month...

September-

10 Sunday School Kick off breakfast

15 Young Life football tailgate party

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

“Being Part of the Body”

Congregations are often given various names. There is the name of the congregation that is on their by-laws, and official documents. Then there are the nick names given to the congregation within the community (some names are positive, while others are negative). There are also general names given to congregations based on Biblical concepts like, “The Body of Believers,” or “the Bride of Christ.” All these names have significance, or reasons behind the name.

The name, “Body of Believers” refers to the concept of each individual congregational member having a specific spiritual gift, and that when the individuals come together, they make up the body. This is clearly explained in 1st Corinthians chapter 12. One person never makes up a congregation. A healthy congregation needs a variety of people, with varied spiritual gifts, that come together to not just worship, but to live lives together in order to function as a healthy congregation. While the pinnacle of congregational life is the gathering together of study and worship on Sundays there is so much more. A healthy congregation lives in an interconnected way throughout the week helping each other in our life’s journey.

We at Bethany are greatly blessed to walk in the footsteps of men, women, youth, and children who have given sacrificially of their time, talent, and money to advance the Kingdom of God as well as build the congregation we know as Bethany. One only has to look at our church history to reflect back on the various groups and individuals who have worked for years to strengthen the members of Bethany, but also congregations and individuals across the globe. Our congregation has also been a rich training ground for many of the leaders and missionaries connected with the AFLC. We have much to be thankful!

I believe that many of us have always expected certain necessary duties and functions of our congregation to be fulfilled simply because they have always been by somebody. But the reality is that life happens, we are all growing

older, and some areas of the ministry need “new blood.” Sunday School teachers, adult VBS help, funeral helpers, youth group volunteers, sound system volunteers, Scripture readers, greeters, Sunday snack help, as well as leadership positions within the congregation all need additional help. I am extremely grateful to the countless hours so many volunteers have invested in these areas currently and in the past. But if we want to continue our current ministries, as well as reach out in new ways, we need more people willing to step up and help in different ways.

If you aren’t too sure how best to become more active, a great place to start is praying and asking God. Another way you can easily plug in is by signing up on the bulletin board to help with our weekly needs. Every week we have various needs for how the Sunday service is conducted. You can also talk to the pastor and let him know what you feel gifted at, or would like to do, and see if there is any way to serve in that manner. Perhaps it would be good to try out a few jobs and maybe eventually you will find something that fits like a glove. Also, as we move into our new school year, we will be starting adult, youth, and children Sunday School, as well as offering small group meetings in people’s homes. Commit to growing in your faith and fellowship with one another outside of just our worship service, and you will definitely be blessed.

While we have a rich history and heritage as a congregation, let us be a congregation that honors the past, while focusing on the present. Be willing to try something new in your service to the body of believers we call Bethany, and take advantage of the opportunities we have to grow together. And as we all seek to honor and serve our Lord, we will find our effectiveness in the Kingdom work greatly increased as we link arms and work together as a congregation.

Pastor Rich Carr

carrsabode@yahoo.com

Worship With Us

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

9:30 A.M. Sunday School (starting 9/10)

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 Prayer Breakfast

Will be September 2, 8:00 A.M. Cooking starts around 7:15 A.M. if you would like to help.

Deacons & Trustees Meeting

Tuesday September 12, 6:00P.M

WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation, Thursday September 14, 11:00 A.M. Bring a sack lunch, dessert is provided. All Ladies welcome!

Bethany Sewing Ministry

We meet September 7,21,28 at 10:00 A.M. All sewing skills are welcome. A lunch is provided.

Brown Bag Ministry

Every Tuesday, 1:30 P.M. Weekly our Brown Bag Ministry prepares as many as 300 or more brown bag lunches that are distributed in the community, we are always grateful for any volunteers.

Sunday School

September 10, 9:30am is the kick off breakfast for Sunday School. Bible centered fun & learning for all ages. Join up for a great time. Regular Sunday School will start September 17th.

Young Life Tailgate Party

Young Life will be hosting a tailgate party September 15, 6pm, before the Astoria High School football game vs Gladstone/Riverdale which kicks off at 7pm. Young Life will start meeting September 27, at 7pm, Astoria Middle School. Come out and encourage our youth and watch a great game.

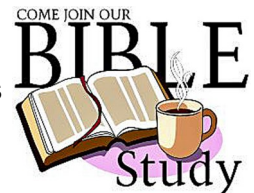


Confirmation

If anyone knows of a student interested in attending confirmation class please contact Pastor Rich, a date and time will be set for what works best for everyone.

Small Group Bible Study

The start of the small groups should kick off the week of September 10th. Families will be hosting in Warrenton, Astoria, Olney, and Knappa/Brownsmead. Times and dates will be announced when firmed up.



Looking Ahead in October

AFLC District Bible Conference

Bethany will be hosting the District Bible Conference October 13&14. Guest Pastor Brian Ricke from South Dakota has a powerful yet loving Biblical response to our culture's current trends, and will be sharing God's design for human sexuality grounded in the Bible. His seminar is designed to equip parents, grandparents, youth and children.

The event including lunch is open to all at no charge, a freewill offering will be taken to apply towards the costs.

Schedule:

Oct.13, 7 PM Friday night worship and opening session

Oct.14, 9 AM-12 worship, teachings, and breakout sessions

12-1 lunch break (lunch will be provided)

1-2 Business Meeting and WMF Meeting

2:30-3:30 Closing teaching and Q and A

We are also in need of men, women or youth not attending the business or WMF meeting for clean up, there will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Also we are in need of people willing to host attendees for Friday night to help save on hotel cost for people attending from out of town. Please let Pastor Rich know if you would be willing to host.

Quarterly Meeting

Quarterly Meeting will be held Oct. 29, 12:30pm after church.