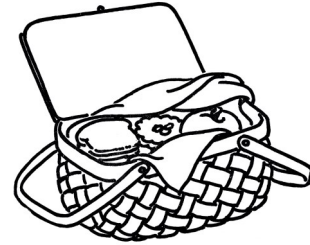


*Coming This Month...*

*August- 5 Men's Prayer Breakfast*

*26 Magathan's 50th Wedding Anniversary*

*27 Worship & Church Picnic at Cullaby Lake*



## 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](http://bethanyfree.com). Sermons after can be found on our YouTube -Bethany Free Lutheran, Astoria, Oregon

## Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast will be August 5, 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, August 8, 6:00P.M



## WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation (WMF) Bible Study, Thursday, August 10th, 11:00 A.M. Bring a sack lunch, dessert is provided. All Ladies welcome!

## Bethany Sewing Ministry

Sewing will be August 3,17,24,31 at 10:00 A.M. All sewing skills are welcome. A lunch is provided.

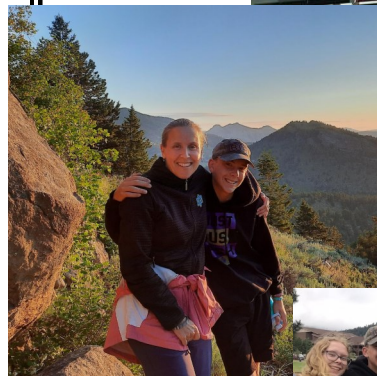
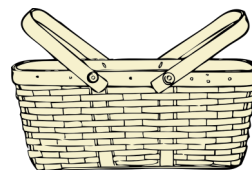


## Brown Bag Ministry

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 in the Community

## Worship Service and Picnic

Our annual outdoor worship service and picnic is Sunday, August 27th at 11:00 A.M. Bring your bathing suits and beach toys and join us at Cullaby Lake County Park located off U.S. Highway 101 between Astoria and Seaside. Hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks will be provided. You are encouraged to bring a salad, chips, veggies, desserts, or any other dish you want to share.



## FLY 2023

A group of 11 went to Estes Park, Colorado to the youth FLY Convention. Some rain didn't dampen the spirits and a wonderful time was had by everyone.

Where has summer gone? We are already in August, and a new school year is right around the corner. And to top it off I am now 50. It seems like only a couple years ago I started my ministry as a pastor, but the reality is that I have been doing this job for quite a few years! As I have been reflecting on the passage of time, it seems that time actually is speeding up. But the truth is that time hasn't changed, just my perspective of time. We all understand life through our different perspectives. Often our perspectives make things easier or harder to understand what we are looking at. Imagine looking at a picture of an elephant from a moderate distance. It would obviously be an elephant that is easy to identify. But what would happen if you zoom in super close to the skin of an elephant? Would it be as easy to identify the picture as an elephant? What we know and experience in life is very much dependent on our perspective.

Since our perspective shapes what we know and understand, would it be safe to say that God knows and understands things differently as a result of His perspective? I think that would be an understatement of the year, of course they are different! Of course an eternal, all powerful, all knowing God's perspective will be totally different from our own. As a result, because of this difference of perspective, things that often don't make sense to us, make total sense to God. This is helpful to remember when we find ourselves crying out to God. "Why did you allow this young mother of 3 to die God?" Or, "Why did my spouse get cancer right after retiring?"

Sometimes when we are in the thick of life, all we see is a giant problem in front of us, yet in God's grand scheme of life He has a plan and a purpose, and what we see as a giant problem is something God is using to direct us, or perhaps prepare us for the next step in our life. Over the years I have taught this concept to our confirmation students as well. One of God's attributes is His transcendence. 1 Kings 8:27 teaches us how big God is, and that while we may be stuck in the forest of life with our problems, God is above that forest and sees the big picture. The Bible says, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and

the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!" (ESV). God has an eternal perspective on our life, our problems, and has a plan for everything- no matter what season in life we are in!

Not only is God transcendent, but just as God is above and over all things, seeing the big picture, God stops and listens to our smallest and weakest pleas. The grand God of the universe stoops down and listens to our cries for mercy and help. The next verses of 1 Kings 8:28-30 explain that to us:

Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O Lord my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, 29 that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. 30 And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive. (ESV)

Time marches on, and it may appear that life is spinning out of control at times. Maybe you find yourself in a season of life that has you questioning whether or not God is even in control, let alone someone that particularly cares about you. Hear this, God is not just in control, but He also cares about you. Even when you find a giant boulder in front of you that seems to be blocking your path to a successful life in Christ- know that God has a plan for you, **and** that boulder. Remember the illustration about the elephant I shared with you. How close or far away from an object we are will drastically affect our view of what is in front of us. Place your faith in God who not only has the best perspective on what is standing in your way, but has a reason for that object to be there in the first place.

Pastor Rich Carr

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