

Coming This Month...

NOVEMBER

12 Fall Festival/Thanksgiving Dinner

19 Contemporary Prayer & Praise Service

23 Thanksgiving Service



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Bethany Free Lutheran Church
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Astoria, OR 97103

Pressing forward to our Upward
Prize

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi this encouragement in Philippians 13b-14, "...But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Paul reminds us that while we currently live as children of God and are set free from the bondage of sin, we still have yet to fully claim our inheritance. Our "prize" as Paul writes, still waits for us on the other side of eternity. We wait for either the second coming of Jesus, or for death to come to us which allows us to pass from this life into the next.

Paul continues on later in this chapter reminding us to follow his example of living for Christ and not to turn away from the truth and thereby become enemies of the Gospel and Jesus. He writes that the enemies of God focus on this present life which are in fact pleasures of this world, what they will eat, how they will live, and comforts to their flesh. We as God's children are to focus not on this world but on our heavenly citizenship, our upward calling. Instead of looking to please ourselves, we are to look to please the Lord. It is about living a life of self-sacrifice. But is it worth it?

Well for one, as Christians we are promised that heavenly citizenship. Revelation tells us many wonderful details about what living in this new heavenly home will be like. It will make the fanciest house on earth look like a hovel. And not only will we be part of a heavenly citizenship in an amazing location, but we are promised to have our "lowly bodies

transformed." For a young person with a healthy body this may not be a big deal, but as we age, we quickly realize that our bodies begin to wear out and stop functioning as they should.

The concept of a new and perfect body becomes more and more important as our current body breaks down. The Christian has a new heavenly home as well as a new and beyond perfect body waiting for us. No longer will we need corrective lenses, no longer will we develop cancer, no longer will we worry where the closest bathrooms are. What we have waiting for us is literally beyond comparison to anything we have in this world.

Because of this wonderful promise of what we have to come, Paul writes these words in the beginning of chapter 4 verse 1, "Therefore, my brothers (*and sisters*), *whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.*" *So I remind you of Paul's words given to us by the inspiration of God to stand firm in this life, and look forward to the coming of something far better!*

Pastor Rich Carr

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

New Live Stream



A new platform to live stream our church service is being worked on. You will be able to download an app or go to our website www.bethanyfree.com and click on WATCH ONLINE. Problems are being worked out but Sunday services can still be watched on our Facebook page as before.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Will be November 4, 8:00 A.M. Cooking starts around 7:15 A.M. if you would like to help. We would love to have more men join us.

Deacons & Trustees Meeting

Tuesday November 7, 6:00P.M

WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation, Thursday November 9, 11:00 A.M. Bring a sack lunch, dessert is provided. All Ladies welcome!

Bethany Sewing Ministry

We meet November 2, 16 and 30 at 10:00 A.M. All sewing skills are welcome. A lunch is provided. We work on quits that mostly are sent to the AFLC Alaska Missions in Naknek, AK



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.

Small Group Bible Study

Pastor Rich has been meeting and will meeting again at his home Nov. 9th & 30th at 6:30 pm. Anyone is welcome to join. Call for information on other groups that may be meeting.



Operation Christmas Child

We will be doing Operation Christmas Child again this year, boxes are available at church and you can stop by and pick one up they are due back at Bethany Nov. 15, so they can be taken to a drop off spot. If you would like to know more about this amazing program you can check it out www.samaritanspurse.org



Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Each

box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever! Delivered by our local church partners, shoebox gifts provide an opportunity to present the Gospel to boys and girls in a clear, child-friendly way.

Fall Festival/Thanksgiving

Nov. 12 following church service everyone is invited to dinner. We will be providing turkey dinner. Everyone is encouraged to bring salads and desserts.



Thanksgiving Service

A service of testimonies & worship will be at 10:00 A.M. November 23 Thanksgiving Day

Youth Fundraiser

The youth is collecting old candles to make Firestarter's with and then sell at a later date. If you have any old ones laying around they would love to take them off your hands.

DON'T FORGET – DAYLIGHT SAVING, TIME CHANGE -WE WILL FALL BACK AN HOUR ON NOVEMBER 5

