

*Don't Forget*

**Meeting**

*Quarterly meeting  
April 14th at 12:30pm*

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

## Why invite others to Bethany Lutheran?

It's a good question isn't? Why are you going to church? And more specifically why would you invite others to our church? There are plenty of choices. Besides the churches that are geographically close, there are many churches less than an hour or two away. And then when you factor in "going to church" by joining an online community- the choices are limitless.

As a pastor, I want to be a part of a congregation that teaches and preaches God's Word in clarity and with accuracy. I also believe good preaching is typically expository preaching. This is where the preacher takes a section of the Bible and explains it. I heard a preacher explain expository preaching as a sermon where the preacher simply explains the Bible. This is taking a text and digging down into it. It is bringing the truth that was conveyed to people long ago, and showing how those same truths apply to us today. It is not taking a topic and then finding verses that support that topic, it is taking a verse or verses and explaining them in context, in such a way that they become alive to the listener.

But it's more than the sermon, or teaching time isn't? I don't know if there are many people who attend a church only because the sermon is good, or the teaching time is always strong. Fellowship with other believers is very important to the health of a good church. People may be attracted to a church because it is known for its solid preaching and teaching, but they won't stay unless they feel apart of the congregation. We are called to live in the world, and make an impact in this world, and not just with our words, but our actions as well. We need to be involved in the lives of the people that we worship with. This takes work, time, and effort. It isn't easy, and it is sometimes messy. But isn't that part of life? By investing in the lives of the people that we worship with, we show them that we really care for them, and love them. Go out to dinner with others from the church. Invite them to your home, play games together, have fun together.

By becoming involved in each other's lives outside of church, you will build bonds of love that will help see you through times of struggles and hardships that are sure to come.

You also will begin to see how we as a congregation are more than just a once-a-week club. We are a family of believers united in our faith in Jesus Christ that seek to live out our faith. While we are called to build the bonds of family inside the church, we need to also be involved in the lives of people outside the church as well.

Look at your neighbors, your co-workers, the people in your community that are not already part of a Biblically solid church. Don't they also need Jesus? Don't they need to experience the growth, fellowship, and love found only in a healthy Christian church that you have here at Bethany?

But what about all our issues? There will always be a bonehead remark, or hurtful action that occurs inside our congregation. We are all sinners in need of a savior. This is as true pre-conversion, as it is after our conversion to faith in Jesus. Some look at the actions of sinful church goers and say they don't want to be a part of that church, because so many people there are hypocrites. One of my favorite answers to that statement came from the late Rich Mullins who once said, "I never understood why going to church made you a hypocrite either, because nobody goes to church because they're perfect. If you've got it all together, you don't need to go. You can go jogging with all the other perfect people on Sunday morning."

In closing, part of what makes Bethany a place that people will want to come and worship with us is you. Live your life in fellowship with your brothers and sisters of faith here at Bethany, and in this community. Allow the light of God to shine through not just your words, but your actions. And when you slip up and sin, make things right when possible, and realize that you are still a sinner in need of a savior, and that you can find direction and clarity on your life's journey here at Bethany.

Pastor Rich Carr

## Worship With Us

8:45 A.M. Glad Tidings Radio 1370 A.M.  
9:30 A.M. Sunday School  
11:00 A.M. Worship Services

## New Live Stream

We live stream our 11:00 A.M. Sunday worship services on Subsplash. You can download the Subsplash app.. Not only does it give you just the current service but you can find the full library of past services that have been live streamed and search a particular service based on the topic of the sermon. The app also has a weekly Bible reading amongst other things. This is a great app for a cellphone which allows you to quickly connect but you are also able to chat and message in it. If you still prefer Facebook we are still there. Sunday sermons are also posted on the same day on our YouTube channel. You can find links to all of these on our website at [www.bethanyfree.com](http://www.bethanyfree.com)



## Men's Prayer Breakfast

Will be April 6th, 8:00 A.M. Cooking starts around 7:15am if you would like to help. We would love to have more men join us.

## Deacons & Trustees Meeting

Tuesday April 9th at 5:30 P.M

## Bethany Sewing Ministry

April 4, 8 and 25 at 10:00 A.M. All sewing skills are welcome. A lunch is provided. We work on quilts that are mostly sent to AFLC Alaska Missions in Naknek, AK



## Brown Bag Ministry

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



## Prayer & Praise Band

The Contemporary Prayer & Praise Service will be held Sunday evening, April 21, at 5pm. The group has been meeting Sunday evenings at 5pm to practice. Thank you to all who have put so much time into this great addition to our church.

## Spring Cleaning

Thank you to all who made it and helped the church sparkle.

## WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation will be meeting March 14, at 11 A.M. All Ladies Welcome! Bring your sack lunch. a dessert is provided.



## Women's Bible Study

Brenda Carr is hosting a women's Bible study and fellowship time on the 4th Tuesday of every month. It will be April 23, 7pm at the Carr's home. All women are welcome.



## Alaska Tote

We will be filling a tote to go to The Net, this year in May. The Net is an internet house in Naknek, AK. The coffee house is a place where people can come and have coffee, treats and hear about the free gift of salvation. More information about The Net can be found on the AFLC Home Missions site.



<https://aflchomemissions.org/alaska/the-net-cafe/>

A registry on Amazon for ideas on things they need can be found here also. Examples –cookies mixes, premade frosting, canisters of hot chocolate & coffee, paper cups, paper supplies, cleaning supplies, shelf stable milk, powdered creamer.

## WMF Spring Rally

The Pacific Northwest District rally will be Saturday, April 13th at Triumph Lutheran Church in Ferndale, Washington. If you are interested in going check the bulletin board at church for more information or ask Lois Grothe.

## Quarterly Meeting

April 14th, 12:30 P.M. following church will be the quarterly meeting.



## Opportunities to Serve

Check out the sign up sheets on the bulletin board! You can sign up to bring after church treats, flowers for the altar, greet and hand out bulletins before church or read the scriptures during church.

## Young Life

I want to thank you all for all of the support that you have given to the North Coast Young Life kids. I am always amazed at the way our congregation reaches out and supports our youth. Thank you to all those that came or donated to the dinner & bake sale, and to all those who continue to get cars washed and flower baskets ordered. And most of all, thank you for being passionate about sharing Jesus with teenagers!

- Mickey Cereghino

