

Church Picnic & Worship Service

August 18th

Cullaby Lake

11:00 A.M.

Burgers & Hot Dogs provided  
Bring a side or dessert to share



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

## Truth or Dare?

In the beginning God created. When God formed the universe and the world as we know it, life was perfect. He made the earth inside our solar system in precisely the right manner allowing life to flourish. Many astronomers and scientists agree that thousands of variables have to be finely tuned in order for the earth to support life. From the distance of the sun to the earth, to the tilt of the earth, to even having giant planets like Jupiter that act as giant asteroid magnets which protect earth, the solar system we live in was made perfect to support life. After making the right supporting structure for life, God then made life. He made all the plants, animals, and eventually He made Adam and Eve. Life was good, it was literally perfect. The only rule God gave for humanity to follow was not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

With one rule, with one truth claim that humanity was to follow life was simple. Yet as we all know it didn't last. Eve picked the fruit, ate, and then offered some to Adam. Why? What caused Adam and Eve to disobey the only rule given to them? They doubted the truth claim given to them by God. When Satan tempted Eve to sin, he said, "Did God really say?" He opened Eve up to the possibility that God's truth wasn't really true. He dared Eve to put God to the test. Find out if God's truth is really true. From that moment on humanity has struggled with accepting truth.

Say what you will about the fallen angel named Satan, he is extremely intelligent. He knows so well how easy our human nature can be tempted. We fool ourselves into thinking we know more than God. God's truth may be fine for God, but it doesn't apply to us. This behavior is similar to many teens' attitudes toward their parents. Many teens believe themselves to be smarter, wiser, stronger, and better than their parents. Who are you to tell me what I should or shouldn't do? That may be true for you, but not me.

If we look at recent human history we see a continual pattern of the denial of truth claims, and even truth itself. In the beginning of the 1700's a new way of thinking emerged called the Age of Enlightenment. Reason became king. While major leaders in this movement ranged from deeply religious deep thinkers, to doubt filled atheists, the various leaders of this movement all were connected by a belief that through questioning, dialogue with others, and the use of reason great progress could be

made for humanity. In many ways progress was made. Our country's foundation was built on this system.

By the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century a new form of thinking emerged called modernism. Adherents of this belief system rejected the concepts developed in the Enlightenment Era especially those connected with religion. They also rejected the certainty of ideas found among many enlightened thinkers. It was believed that through personal awareness or self-consciousness, humans were able to reach their full potential. Truth became harder to define, while the focus on oneself became sharper. Then in the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century a new way of thinking took over called post-modernism. Modern academia has firmly become entrenched in this belief system. Objective truth is viewed as infantile, and grossly wrong. A truth may be true for one person, but not another. Concepts of morality, human nature, and societal norms became highly individualistic. Post Modern philosophy has even influenced the science of mathematics. A science that has (at least in the past) made clear that there is but one correct answer to mathematical problems, now is being taught in many classrooms that regardless of one's answer what is most important is how that answer was achieved.

Sadly, those still going to church have been negatively impacted by these troubling trends as well. An article I was looking at from a few years ago stated that of Christian adults only 32% believe and accept the concept of objective truth, while a stunningly low 9% of Christian youth accept objective truth as being a reality. Is it really a mystery why so many youth and young adults are absent from the church? Most don't even believe that it exists!

While we still have a chunk of summer left before we get back into the swing of our Fall activities, I want to encourage all of us to consider spending some time studying the concept of truth. There are lots of good books on truth, as well as Bible studies, and videos that you can watch. Don't forget that we still have RightNowMedia available for all of us to use, at no cost to the end user. Under the browse section of RightNowMedia.org search- Apologetics- and you will find many great choices to start watching. While the concept of knowing truth may seem outdated and even wrong to the world, we should remember that another name for Jesus is "The Truth" (see John 14:6). Therefore better knowing truth, means better knowledge of Jesus.

Pastor Rich Carr

## 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 Subsplash. If you prefer Facebook we are still there. Sunday sermons are also posted the same day on our YouTube channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/@bethanyfreelutheranastoria3012/featured>



You can find links to all of these on our website at [www.bethanyfree.com](http://www.bethanyfree.com)

## Bethany Free Lutheran APP

Bethany Free Lutheran has an APP that you can utilize on your phone! You can find it for Android or Apple, search Bethany Lutheran Church OR in each app store. The app contains the livestream Worship Service, access to the Monthly Newsletter, a Digital Bible, and some community messaging services. If you'd like to know more about the APP or how to download it onto your device, please talk to Pastor, Mickey, Kelly or Lois.

## Men's Prayer Breakfast

Will be August 3rd 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

Will be Tuesday, August 6th at 5:30 P.M.



## Bethany Sewing Ministry

Watch the weekly Sunday bulletin for which Thursdays this summer. 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 volunteers.



## Opportunities to Serve

Check out the sign up sheets on the bulletin board for August! You can sign up to provide after church treats, flowers for the altar, greet and hand out bulletins before church or read the scriptures during church. If any of these sound like something you would like to do, sign up!

Thank you!

## WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation will be held at Leslie Selven's home, Thursday, August 8th at 11am. BBQ Chicken will be provided, please bring a side to share. We will be leaving the church at 10:45am to carpool if you would like to do that. All Ladies are Welcome!

1201 Alameda Ave, Astoria, OR

## Women's Bible Study

Brenda Carr is hosting a women's Bible study and fellowship time on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the parsonage. It will be August 27th, 7pm this month. All women are welcome.

## Special Congregational Meeting

August 25th following the church service, 12:30 P.M.

## Annual Picnic

Bethany Church Picnic & Service at Cullaby Lake, Sunday August 18th at 11:00a.m. Join us for our annual outdoor worship service and picnic. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. You're welcome to bring a salad, chips, veggies or dessert to share. Come, bring a friend and enjoy a fun day!



## New Members Class

If you are interested in learning more about what we at Bethany believe, or if you are interested in becoming a member, we invite you to attend our new member classes. First class will be August 4th. They will take place downstairs in the fellowship hall after church (12:30 P.M.). If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact Pastor Rich.

## Harbor Christian Academy

Will be hosting an **Ice Cream Social/Open House on Monday, August 5th**, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the school building on the corner of 14th and Grand. Come see the building, ask questions, and learn more about this Christian school opening in Astoria next year! Everyone is invited!