

New Multi-Purpose Building

Construction is underway and things are moving along.



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

The Spiritual Realm

I recently had a good talk with a member of the church about Satan, demons, and how they interact with us. After talking for awhile I was asked why I hadn't taught on this concept yet. In time, I do want to spend a good chunk of time teaching on this subject. I felt like with the Halloween season just wrapping up, people might still be curious about this subject, so I wanted to use this platform to begin to "wet your appetite."

The concept of demons is mentioned multiple times throughout the Bible. The Old Testament uses multiple words to describe the same group of beings. Evil spirits, demons, and even the word prince in Daniel is used to describe what is commonly referred to as the same group at least 10 different times. In the New Testament the word demon or evil spirit is used over 80 times. But as commonly used as this word is, we don't have much describing their origin, and how they work in our world.

We do know that demons are created beings, meaning that God made them. And before you get worked up by that, realize that demons were not always demons. Most believe that demons are angels that rebelled against God's authority, and were led by Lucifer (once a powerful angel of light), otherwise known as the Devil. Revelation 12:4 seems to imply that demons were once angels that God made to be His servants. In Revelation 12:9 it seems to explain that 1/3 of the angels rebelled against God, and were cast out of heaven.

The leader of the demons called Lucifer or Satan was once an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). As such it seems that Isaiah 14:12-15 describes Lucifer as an angel that grew prideful and arrogant. He desired to be worshipped himself, instead of worshiping and serving the one true God. Obviously this was not acceptable so Satan was thrown out of heaven (Luke 10:18).

Satan and the other fallen angels who foolishly rebelled against God are destined to be thrown into a place of eternal torment (Matt. 25:41, Rev. 20:10). But before they are sent to this horrible place, they are given limited dominion over this world, and are seeking to cause God as much pain as possible. The best way they hurt God is to drag as many of God's most magnificent creations away from Him. And if you didn't know already we humans are the pinnacle of God's creation. We are literally made in His image.

As hopefully all of us already know, Jesus came to earth to provide humans a chance at redemption. Through faith in Him, we are forgiven,

restored, and renewed as His children. We like the angels also rebelled against God. But unlike the angels, God provided a way of escape for humans that fallen angels never got. Satan hates us, and wants to destroy us. Luke 22:31 records for us Satan's desire to take down the disciples of Jesus. And 1st Peter 5:8 warns us by telling us, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." It seems that even the angels that didn't rebel don't completely understand God's reasoning for providing humans an escape from our sins. For the Bible speaks of how the angels look with longing into human salvation (1 Peter 1:12).

While there is a normally unseen spiritual realm filled with demons, thankfully there are many more angels who are loyal to God, and serve Him. Often people speak of guardian angels as those beings that God has appointed to protect us (Ps. 91:11, 34:7, Heb.1:14). While it appears that all believers have angels appointed to help protect them, there are times when God sends a whole host of angels to intercede and guard us (2 Kings 6:17).

Finally to be clear, when humans die, we do not become angels in heaven as some mistakenly believe. Believe it or not, at the end of time humans will actually judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3). It seems that angels will always remain as angels, and humans will always remain human. Although after the 2nd coming of Jesus, humans will be given new bodies that will in many ways be similar to that of angels.

In conclusion we should understand that there are very real enemies in the spiritual realm called demons, that are led by a powerful demon called Satan or Lucifer. While we should respect these powerful creatures, we should not fear them, or fool with them. Just as it is foolish for a child to play with a rattlesnake we should not play with the spiritual realm or the occult. Too many who celebrate Halloween go overboard and open themselves up to forces that they don't understand. Also we should not fear demonic forces when we are children of the Lord, because through the power of Jesus we have authority over demons and even Satan.

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

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30am-10:30am

Kindergarten- Adults

Learning God's Word



Men's Prayer Breakfast

The men's prayer breakfast is November 2nd, 8:00 A.M. Cooking starts at around 7:15 A.M., if you would like to help. We would love to have more men join us.

Deacons & Trustees Meeting

They will meet here at church, Tuesday, November 5th, 5:30 P.M.

Bethany Sewing Ministry

The ladies of Bethany will meet November 21st this month. Thursday mornings at 10 A.M., downstairs at Bethany. 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, 1:00 P.M. We have our weekly Brown Bag Ministry which 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 NOVEMBER & DECEMBER! 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!

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class will meet November 7, 14 & 21. They meet at 2:40pm after school at the Astoria Middle School, on Thursdays. If you know someone interested please contact Pastor Rich.

WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation Bible Study will meet Thursday, November 14th, 11am at church. All Ladies are Welcome!

Violet Paulson's Memorial Service

Saturday, November 9th, 12:00 P.M.

Bethany Free Lutheran Church

Reception immediately following at Eric's home

195 W. Kensington,

Astoria, OR 97103



Operation Christmas Child

We are 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 to Bethany Nov. 17, 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



Women's Evening Bible Study

The women's Bible study and fellowship time is held on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the parsonage. It will be held November 19th, 7pm this month. All women are welcome. Our Christmas party will be a Laura's house Tuesday December 10th, 6pm. More information as we get closer.

Youth Event

The first youth event was held October 27th, with food and fun. The next one will be November 8th. We have also had a steady group coming to Sunday School every week.

Fall Festival/Thanksgiving

Will be held November 17th following church service, everyone is invited to join us downstairs. We will be providing a turkey dinner, you are encouraged to bring salads or desserts.



Missionaries -Sunday November 10th

November 10th Missionaries Paul & Becky Abel will be visiting us from Brazil. They will be sharing at Sunday School hour and Paul will be bringing the message during our worship service.

Coming Up

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 8th, at 12:30pm. We will be discussing the new Constitution and Bylaws being proposed. Draft copies of the proposed changes are available.