

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

What is important?

This time of the year is special for lots of reasons. While few of us like getting less sleep due to “springing forward” an hour, the extra daylight is nice. The flowers are starting to pop up all around us. Yes, it normally rains as usual, but the realization is that summer is fast approaching with drier weather to follow that allows for activities normally not possible in the constant rain. There are also church activities that we look forward to. Lent is wrapping up, and Holy Week is around the corner with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday fast approaching.

As I was doing a devotion this week, a chunk of Scriptures stood out to me that made me think of Easter ham feasts. Since families celebrate Easter with hams, turkeys, and other rich foods, I began to reflect on friends of mine who have believed it wrong to eat pork, worship on Sundays, and do other things generally tied to the Old Testament ceremonial laws. Some well meaning Christians have read the Bible’s food laws and believed they apply to not just Old Testament Jews, but New Testament Christians. They abstain from shellfish, pork products, and eating cheese on a burger. Believe it or not, those things are taboo for Old Testament believers. They were strictly banned as being ceremonially unclean.

Most who disagree with the need to abstain from these Old Testament dietary restrictions believe that Peter’s vision from Acts chapter 10 gives us the ability to eat whatever we want. While that is not completely wrong, that vision dealt less with clean verses unclean animals that we can now eat and more with God’s desire

for Gentiles as well as Jews to come to faith in Jesus. That Gentiles once considered unclean, were now made clean by Christ’s redemption.

However, there are other sections of Scripture that do tell us to freely partake in meats once considered unclean. 1 Timothy 4 teaches how some depart from the truth of the faith by embracing an outward show of works. That they abstain from things in order to demonstrate their true faith. And these same people look down on others and even say they are not Christians unless they abstain as well. 1st Timothy 4:1-5 says:

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

The most important thing to remember is that whatever we do, we should do it for the glory of God. So, if you find yourself around a table heaped high with ham, crab, oysters, razor clams, or some crazy wild game meat, rejoice over your abundance, give thanks to God for your bounty and dig in! You can eat of this food with joy, happiness, and peace. Don’t let others seek to steal your freedoms because of their manmade rules. For everything created by God is indeed good.

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 April 5th, 8:00am. Cooking starts at around 7:15am, 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 April 8th, 5:30pm.

Bethany Sewing Ministry

The ladies of Bethany will meet April 3, 17, 24 this month, Thursday mornings at 10am, downstairs at Bethany. All sewing skills are welcome or if you want to bring you other hand work and just fellowship. A lunch is provided. We work on quilts that are mostly sent to AFLC Alaska Missions in Naknek, AK

They are always more than glad for any donations of fabric. Just drop by on one of the sewing days or contact the church and arrangements can be made.



Brown Bag Ministry

Every Wednesday, 11:00 am, we have our weekly Brown Bag Ministry which prepares brown bag lunches that are distributed in the community, we are always grateful for volunteers.

WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation will meet, Thursday, April 10th, 11am at the church. All Ladies are Welcome, bring a lunch, dessert is provided.



Women's Evening Bible Study

WEBS will meet this month on April 22nd, at 7pm. Hosted by Brenda Carr at the parsonage.

Thank You to all that have been signing up for altar flowers, readers, greeters and after church treats. If you would like to volunteer, sign up sheets are on the bulletin board.

Easter Season

Lenten Services

Wednesday evening bread & soup dinners for Lent. Dinner at 6pm and service to follow at 7pm. Dates are April 2 & 9th. Join us for fellowship, a warm meal and worship!



Palm Sunday Worship Service 11am-April 13th

Maundy Thursday Service 7pm-April 17

Good Friday Service 7pm-April 18th

Easter Sunday- April 20th

Breakfast 9:30am

Easter Worship Service 11am

*There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, join us for breakfast!

Quarterly Meeting

April 27th, 12:30 P.M. following church will be the quarterly meeting.



Ladies Tea



May 1st at 6:30, bring your own tea cup if you would like and join us for May Day!

Alaska Tote

We will be filling a tote to go to The Net, again this year in May. The Net is an internet coffee house in Naknek, AK. The coffee house is a place where people can come and have free 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 the things they need can be found there. Examples –cookies mixes, cake mixes, cupcake papers, premade frosting, canisters of hot chocolate & coffee, paper cups, paper supplies, cleaning supplies, shelf stable milk, powdered creamer, Bibles, cooking oil, white garbage sacks, more things listed on the Amazon wish list. Warm coats are also a welcome addition.

We also send the quilts that the ladies have been working on all year. These quilts are given out to people during the summer that need them and they are also distributed to outlying villages.

“The Alaska Ministry Team so appreciates all the quilts being sent to their base in Alaska. The quilts are passed out to people in Naknek, as well as taken to many area villages where they fly. Several boxes have been taken to a closed village (due to strong Russian Orthodox influence) and were welcomed there solely because of quilts. Quilts were also sent to villages where there has been severe flooding and people had lost nearly everything – the quilts were received with tears. Additionally, dozens of quilts are shared with international visitors to Naknek during fishing season.” From the AFLC web site