



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

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

Is our country's savior going to be a political figure?

As our election for the president is finished and the appointment of President Trump's cabinet is coming to a close, many believe that either our country has been taken over by a mad dictator, or that we have finally found our political savior and all will be made right (personally I believe neither extreme). With the world seemingly becoming more unstable, there are many who clamor for our politicians to rescue us. Many on the right believe that President Trump will now make us safer, stronger, and better as a country and as a world. Others believe that President Trump will do the opposite. Almost everyone believes that when the right guy or gal takes office, then everything will get better and be under control. But will it?

Is our solution to the world and our nation a political one? The Jews lived under the oppression of the Roman government and hated them for it. They had less freedom, high taxes, and a poorer standard of living (sounds a bit like our country now). They wanted a savior. God answered their long awaited cries, and Jesus came. After years of yearning for the Messiah, He came. Only Jesus wasn't what many of the people felt they needed. They wanted release from the political oppression caused by the Romans, and wanted worldly prosperity as a nation. Instead, Jesus taught about our need to endure the burdens of this life, and in fact embrace them as we seek to truly be His disciples. Matthew recorded this in chapter 16 verse 24 of his gospel account, "Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (ESV) By properly applying this teaching to our lives, we learn that we should expect a certain level of persecution and even pain if we seek to truly follow after Jesus. Are we really willing to accept this?

Our savior is not President Trump, nor is it any other politician or some other future

president. It will not be found in the Republican party, Democratic party, or some independent party. The solution to what ails our country and world is not political based at all. What we see in the world and our country is the effects of unchecked sin. The only solution for sin is forgiveness found in Jesus Christ, the Messiah. We as a people need saved. We need to deny our sinful desires of greed, gluttony, pride, lust, and others and follow the example of Jesus. We need leaders committed to that same ideal. Men and women seeking to surrender their desires in order to follow after Jesus and make disciples of others.

We need to stop hoping that things will get better if the right gal or guy gets into office. Stop worrying about that. Regardless of how you felt about our last election, it's over. Focus on the here and now. How does God want you to surrender your will for Him? How can we follow the example set by Jesus and pray as He did, "Not my will, but yours be done." If you want to make a real difference start by looking over your fence at your neighbor. Stop in at the nursing home. Talk to that socially awkward kid at lunch. Maybe it means giving up part of your dream savings in order to bless another. We don't need a political solution to our problems, we need Christians acting like Christians to others. Focus on changing one life at a time, and you just might find that the world and our country get a little bit better as the light of Christ shines a bit brighter through us.

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 March 1st, 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, March 4th, 5:30pm.

Bethany Sewing Ministry

The ladies of Bethany will meet March 6, 20 & 27 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, March 13th, 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 March 18, 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

Ash Wednesday is March 5th, we will be starting our Wednesday evening bread & soup dinners for Lent. Dinner at 6pm and service to follow at 7pm. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board to provide bread & soup. Dates will be March, 12, 19, 26 and April 2 & 9th.



Palm Sunday-April 13th

Good Friday-April 18th

Easter Sunday- April 20th

YOUTH

As I step into a paid role working with the youth of the church, I wanted to share some of my thoughts and plans. In a region where teenagers face unique challenges and pressures, my goal is to connect with the youth of our church on a personal level, provide mentorship, and offer a source of hope and purpose.

I am excited about the potential to make a difference not only in the lives of the teens in our congregation, but also of those in our community. I plan on doing this through engaging activities, open conversations, and, most importantly, the message of love and redemption found in the Gospel.

However, I can't do it alone. I would ask for your continued prayer support. I believe in the power that prayer has, and it is a great way for us as a church to rally behind our youth. Please also pray about your involvement in the lives of our youth. Ask God if you are meant to help out, and what your level of involvement might look like. We will have plenty of opportunities where we will be in need of a house to meet at, a chaperone on a trip, or someone who wants to share their passions and interests with our teens! I am looking forward to continually seeing what God has in store for our youth and the church!

Respectfully, Lydia Carr