



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

The calling of Wisdom

I believe the book of Proverbs is often overlooked by Christians. To begin with it is found in the Old Testament. There are some who avoid the Old Testament because they feel like the important stuff is mostly in the New Testament. I was someone that for the longest time only read the Old Testament because I felt I had to, not because I wanted to. It wasn't until I had an Old Testament professor in seminary who helped me discover a love for this ancient literature that I discovered the joy of reading from the front half of our Bibles. This summer as I am on my sabbatical Dr. Brent Olson (AFLC Old Testament professor) will be here for three weeks of preaching. If you have an aversion to the Old Testament, I would encourage you to take Dr. Olson out for a coffee and pick his brain. Ask him about why he likes the Old Testament, and maybe you will see the light as I did!

Some look at Proverbs and think it is too choppy and erratic. There isn't the flow that many of the other Biblical books have. It can come across as a bunch of random information that doesn't always seem to make sense. And to be fair, it doesn't read really well, at least not nearly as well as the historical narrative found in much of the Old Testament. Sometimes the verses appear as pithy short sayings that are common sense. While some of the proverbs are a bit simplistic at times, there is a deep richness to these often-short verses. Also there are some really neat literary devices used by the author of some of the proverbs called personification. This means that the author attaches a humanness to something that isn't human. This is clear seen a few different ways. One of my favorites is how wisdom and follow are spoken of as being two different people.

Wisdom calls out to those that will listen to her. Solomon wrote in chapter 1 verse 20 how wisdom cries aloud in the

street, and raises her voice in the marketplace to get people's attention. He then writes of wisdom speaking to her son, giving him warning to listen to her words, and obey them in chapter 2. In fact there are long sections of the book of Proverbs explaining how wisdom (who is acting as a wise mother) calls out to those who will listen. Her words are worth more than gold, silver, or jewels. How many of us wouldn't love to be given a gift of loads of money? Wisdom says that her words are more valuable than a load of money!

Likewise "Wisdom" has a relative named "Folly." Folly is a loud seductive person who knows nothing (Proverbs 9:13). Folly attempts to lead the simple, the foolish, and the ignorant astray with her easy words and empty false promises. How many of us know people in our lives who act like this woman called Folly? There are many simple and ignorant people. Those who didn't have good homes growing up that had wise parents. They didn't have a church family that actively sought to teach and instruct them in the ways of God. In our culture these people are considered victims, and perhaps they are. But a simple solution is for these people to listen to a teacher that won't lead them astray, to listen to Wisdom, and ignore Folly. In the end regardless of our upbringing, our advantages, and our parents, we all will stand before God to give an account of our lives. Perhaps all of us would benefit from some study this summer in the Bible, focused on the book of Proverbs. Listen to Wisdom, and follow her teachings, and perhaps you might find yourself learning the easy way, and deepening your faith.

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



Men's Prayer Breakfast

The men's prayer breakfast is June 7th, 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

Deacons & Trustees will meet here at church, Tuesday June 10th, 5:30pm.

Bethany Sewing Ministry



The ladies of Bethany will meet June 5th & 19th 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, June 12th, 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 June 24th, at 7pm. Hosted by Brenda Carr at the parsonage.



Opportunities to Serve

Check out the sign up sheets on the bulletin board. 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!



New Building

The new building is coming along we have doors!

Senior Sunday

We will be honoring Audrey Cereghino and Naomi Carr on Sunday June 1st, they will be graduating from Astoria High School.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday June 1st will be Confirmation Sunday, Petra Cereghino, Rebecca Reid and Samuel Reid will be confirmed.

Vacation Bible School

Theme: Agent 119: The Mission to Hide God's Word

Verse: Psalm 119:11 "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Dates: Monday-Friday, June 23-27

Time: 2-5pm

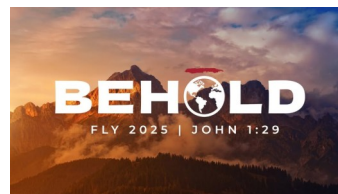
Ages: Kindergarten– 5th grade



BBQ Block Party

A wrap up of the fun VBS week with a Community BBQ, Friday June 27th @5pm will be a fun family event with food, games and fun.

Invite a neighbor, bring a friend!



FLY 2025—The group of 6 kids and 1 adult will leave June 30 and return July 5. They are all very excited to be going. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Upcoming Dates

Annual Picnic will be July 20th at Cullaby Lake, South Shelter.

