



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

### Keeping things in Perspective

The writer of Hebrews reminds us that we should keep our struggles and trials in perspective when he wrote, "Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood" (Heb 12:3–4, ESV). Specifically, this admonishment is for Christians to not grow tired or become overwhelmed in our struggle against sinful desires and the sinful world. But we can and should also apply this Scripture to ourselves when we experience hardships in general.

We all go through trials, tribulations, and struggles at various times in our life, as well as have seasons in our life where we feel like if it can go bad, it will. When those times do happen, it can be easy to get overwhelmed or even worse, feel isolated or even cut off from the Lord. None of us live on a constant mountain top, hard times will come. The past few months have been difficult on our family with the kitchen and dining room ripped up from a leaking dishwasher. I was reminded of what it was like when Brenda and I first got married and we had to live in the bottom of the girls dorm room for a few months when I started seminary. As I write this article, a work crew is busy sawing, smashing, and tearing some of the flooring out as well as the kitchen cabinets.

When those hard times hit, it is important to keep our struggles in perspective. Throughout Jesus life He lived a life filled with regular amounts of stress and trials. Jesus was born in a stable, and then had to flee to Egypt. Most of His life until age 30 is a mystery.

However, we do know He grew up most of His life in a Roman occupied territory in Nazareth, a not so nice part of the country. Then those last three years of His life was tumultuous and stressful, to put it mildly. He was eventually beaten and then killed by sinful men in a brutal fashion. Jesus endured terrible hardships and difficulties, to the point of death. Most of us know that Jesus calls us to pick up our cross and to follow Him. The good news is that while we may endure occasional hardships, most of us don't shed blood over them. I don't want to minimize anyone's hardships, but I do want to remind us that thankfully few of us will ever shed blood over those hardships.

We do need to follow our Savior's example of living a sacrificial life, and sometimes that requires us to experience loss and hardships. When those times happen don't grow weary and shake your fist at God in frustration. Rather let's remember that even most of our hardest experiences are nothing compared to what Jesus went through. Besides one day all our struggles will be a thing of the past when we find ourselves living with our Savior in glory.

Heb 12:3–4

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (ESV)

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](http://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 May 3rd, 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 May 6th, 5:30pm.

## Bethany Sewing Ministry

The ladies of Bethany will meet May 1,15,22,29 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, May 8th, 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 May 27th, at 7pm. Hosted by Brenda Carr at the parsonage.



## Ladies Tea

May 1st at 6:30, if you would like to bring your own tea cup or we have plenty to share. Bring a friend!



## New Building

Lots of new progress on the new building. Sunday May 4th we will be having a Wall Signing/Bible Verse writing on the interior walls after church. Everyone is encouraged to write their favorite Bible Verse or special message on the walls before the sheetrock is installed.

## Senior Sunday

We will be honoring Audrey Cereghino and Naomi Carr on Sunday June 1st, who 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.

## Youth Happenings

We have had a great past month with the youth! Plane tickets are booked for Fly and we will be making our own youth group tee shirts coming up! I have been meeting with Zoe and teaching her how to drive, this last Thursday she passed her driving test! We also had our Star Wars movie night this past month, and had several kids join us that aren't regular attendees of our church. There are also 2 graduating seniors this year, Naomi and Audrey. We will have many more fun events to come, especially looking into summer!

## Alaska Tote

Thanks to all who contributed to the tote for the Naknek mission! From the sewers, The Net supplies, warm clothing, donated fabric we appreciate it all. Thanks, too, for Andy Peitsch delivering it safely to Seattle. I was concerned we didn't have a full tote but the last roll of paper towels just fit! 720 pounds! Trust God! Recently Bev Hoofnagle posted a picture of us loading the tote in 2014. This was our eleventh year!



This years tote packing crew!