

Church Picnic & Worship Service

July 20th

Cullaby Lake, South Shelter

11:00 A.M.

Burgers & Hot Dogs provided

Bring a side or dessert to share



Worship With Us

8:45 A.M. Glad Tidings Radio 1370 A.M.

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



Sabbatical

Pastor Rich will be on a sabbatical from July 13-August 31. Feel free to contact any of the board members, if something comes up.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The men's prayer breakfast is July 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

Deacons & Trustees will meet here at church, Tuesday July 8th, 5:30pm.



Bethany Sewing Ministry

The ladies of Bethany will meet July 3, 17, 24 & 31 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, July 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 July 29th, at 7pm. Hosted by Brenda Carr at the parsonage.



New Building

Windows and doors!

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!

Youth of Bethany

We have had a great week of VBS the last week of June with an average of about 24 kids each day! We had some great volunteers from the church as well as Chloe Taylor who came from North Dakota! Our Community BBQ held on Friday for families of VBS kids, as well as for the community was lots of fun!

FLY 2025

Lydia is taking a group of 7 students to the FLY Convention June 30th-July 5th and they are all very excited! Please keep them all in your prayers.



Annual Picnic

Bethany Church Picnic & Service at Cullaby Lake, South Shelter, Sunday July 20th at 11:00a.m. Join us for our annual outdoor worship service and picnic. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. You're welcome to bring a salad, chips, veggies or dessert to share. Come, bring a friend and enjoy a fun day!

Quarterly Meeting

The quarterly meeting will be after church, July 27th, 12:30pm

What is going on this summer?

If you haven't been actively involved in church this past year you might not be aware of what I am going to be doing this summer. The congregation has voted to offer me a sabbatical rest, and the council is allowing me to take some of my vacation time next to my sabbatical which is allowing me to be gone a little bit longer. Beginning Sunday July 13th and extending through till September 1st I will be taking a break from ministry. While I in no way plan on taking a break from my faith, I will be taking a break from ministry duties. After over 20 years of ministry I will not need to prepare a sermon and preach each week, be available for emergencies, or answer questions and deal with issues regarding the church. I will be able to totally disconnect, "recharge my batteries," and invest in my own mental and spiritual health.

Some might wonder what I will be doing with all this down time. I plan on flying back to Pittsburgh and spending ten days with my family as well as help my mother move from her home into her new living area. I look forward to being able to do some automotive work and not have the pressure of working evenings or just on a Monday. I also plan on doing some more work on my book that I just started on the reasons why infant baptism is correct. I want to take some weekend trips with Brenda and also explore some of the beautiful areas of Oregon and Washington. Most importantly I also look forward to spending some dedicated time with the Lord for my own benefit only. I won't be thinking about a sermon or Sunday School lesson. I plan on reading the Bible and studying specifically for my own enrichment.

I know when my mother's last pastor was given a sabbatical, she worried that he was looking for another call during that time. I reminded my mom that is not what he was doing, and I want to be very clear that is not what I will be doing either. I have no

churches that have contacted me, nor do I have any churches that I want to visit with the intent of seeking a call there. While on sabbatical I do want to attend other churches in order to see how others lead worship and get ideas for things I like, and things I don't like. If you don't see much of me, don't fear, I have no exit plans!

There are plans to have the pulpit filled by excellent pastors that I have served with and know well. Pastor and Doctor Brent Olson of the AFLC seminary will preach three sermons, as well as Pastor Tom Brock of the national TV show called "The Pastor's Study" (and also my old Senior Pastor that I served with in Minneapolis) will also preach three sermons. The Rescue Mission plans to come one Sunday and share as well as Pastor Slivkoff for one Sunday. If there are emergencies that arise the Deacons have agreed to share the load of following up on those. This time of the year is normally the lightest time work wise, so there hopefully won't be a noticeable difference in people's needs being met.

I am so humbled and thankful for this wonderful gift that has been given to me. I know this was a stretch for the congregation especially since I haven't been serving here at Bethany Free for only three years. I am convinced that this will benefit not only me and my family, but also the entire congregation in the long run. Please keep me in prayer as I take this break and ask that God would restore my fervor for the ministry, and rekindle my love for the pastorate.

Pastor Rich Carr