

Fall Festival/Thanksgiving

Join Us! November 16th following church service, everyone is invited downstairs for a turkey dinner, bring salads or desserts. Bring a friend!



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

Worship With Us

8:45 A.M. Glad Tidings Radio 1370 A.M.
Sunday School 9:30 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



SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30am-10:30am

Kindergarten- Adults

Learning God's Word



Men's Prayer Breakfast

Will be November 1st, 8:00 A.M. Cooking starts around 7:30am 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 November 4th, 5:30pm.



Bethany Sewing Ministry

The ladies of Bethany will be meeting November 6 & 20 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.

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 at 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, November 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, November 25th, at 7pm. Hosted by Brenda Carr at the parsonage.



Kitchen Shower

We are having a Kitchen Shower for our new Community Building Space. Everyone is welcome. Soup, Salad & Dessert, will be served, Sunday, November 2nd, at 1pm.

Some suggested items: Cash or gift cards are welcome, Large Soup kettles, Cutting

Boards, Large Sheet Pans, Large colander, Broom, Dish Towels. A great location to purchase items is the Chef Store in Warrenton.

Opportunities to Serve

Check out the sign up sheets on the bulletin board for NOVEMBER & DECEMBER ! 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!

Fall Festival/Thanksgiving



A Thanksgiving feast will be held November 16th following church service, everyone is invited to join us downstairs. We will be providing a turkey dinner, you are encouraged to bring salads or desserts. Bring a friend!

Thanksgiving Service

We will be having a Thanksgiving Service Wednesday, November 26th at 7pm.

Operation Christmas Child

We are doing Operation Christmas Child again this year, boxes are available at church and you can stop by and pick one up they are due back to Bethany Nov. 16th, so they can be taken to a drop off spot. If you would like to know more about this amazing program you can check it out

www.samaritanaspurse.org



Memorial Service A memorial service for Eric Paulson's sister Lenna Johansen will be held next Saturday November 8th at 1pm, here at Bethany.

What are you holding on to?

Mark 10:17-22 records for us an experience Jesus had with a wealthy man who had a serious question. This man approached Jesus with a question that lies at the core of what most are concerned about, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" On the surface this appears to be a great question. Most pastors would probably be happy that they would be asked this question. This man was concerned about his eternal destination, and he viewed Jesus as an authority on the matter.

Jesus told him about the 10 commandments, and rattled off a few of them. The man responded, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." He had answered Jesus with what Jesus wanted to hear (or so he thought). At this point the man must have thought to himself that he was in. I imagine this man was a mixture of eagerness and self-pride. Jesus had asked the man about following the law, and in the man's eyes he was fulfilling the law the way he should. From his perspective he was doing all the works that God required. And humanly speaking, he likely was a very good man. According to our standards this man might have made a good pastor, or leader in the church because he appeared to be a very righteous man, and hey he was rich to boot.

To be clear there is nothing wrong with having lots of money and stuff, as long as that money and stuff doesn't have you. But unfortunately, this man's problem was not that he had lots of money, but that his lots of money had him. Jesus knew this man's heart, and Jesus knew more about this wealthy man, than the man knew about himself. This man was not putting God first. Wealth, power, and possibly even greed was crowding God out of the picture. Now most who read this account don't think this man has anything to do with them, because they weren't wealthy like this man. Many might be tempted to think that this account was written in our Bibles for the wealthy and powerful. As if God only included this passage in our Bibles for movie stars and millionaires. Unfortunately, the problem that this wealthy man had is a problem that way too many "normal" people share. And that problem was an unhealthy attachment to stuff.

Well Jesus being the "soul" doctor that He is, prescribed the remedy for what was ailing this wealthy man. Jesus basically said go sell all your stuff and then get rid of that money by giving it to the poor, and once that's done come and follow me. This was a special invitation to follow Jesus, to be one of His exclusive followers. This man might have even one day been made an apostle. Sadly, instead of being obedient to what God asked of him and turn from the idol of all his stuff, and following Jesus; this man turned away from Jesus, and turned back to his god of stuff.

This begs the question for all of us, what stuff are we holding on to? Is there something in our life that has pushed God aside? One of God's commandments from the big ten are to have no other god before Him. It is so easy to allow our priorities to become jumbled, and replace God as our number one priority with stuff. Would you be willing to sell all your stuff and move somewhere else if you felt God calling you? Would you be willing to stop a behavior that has long been ingrained into your routine because God is calling you (even if that behavior isn't necessarily sinful)?

The Bible says that when Jesus told the rich man to sell all his stuff and follow Him, that He looked at the man with love. Jesus doesn't ask us to give up stuff because He likes to see us go without. He wants us to give stuff up that causes us harm, that causes us to take our eyes off of Christ. For that man, his god or idol of money had taken God's top spot. Is it possible that something or even someone has taken over God's top spot in your life today? A good way to examine ourselves is to ask a simple question of God in our prayer time, "God is there anything in my life I need to give up because it has taken my eyes off of you?" Then if you feel a nudging in your spirit, it is more than likely from the Lord. May we all have the boldness to ask God this question, and the resolve to change a behavior or give something up if needed.

Pastor Rich Carr