



Ash Wednesday

— Lent Begins

Our Lent Soup & Services
will start on Ash Wednesday
February 18th.
Soup 6:00 PM
Service 7:00 PM

The Women's Evening Bible Study group collected hygiene products for The Learning Resource Center at Astoria Middle School. The teacher Mandy Davidson, in February focuses on self-care and hygiene, exploring how the physical, mental and emotional health are all connected. During the hygiene lessons items that aligned with the topics are then able to be passed out. Donations are gladly excepted or funds to purchase items. This project is called the Nordic Nook and also will take donations of clothing.



LET ALL
THAT
YOU DO
BE DONE
WITH
LOVE.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14 NKJV



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

February 7th, 8:00 A.M. Cooking starts around 7:30am if you would like to help. We would love to have more men join us.

Bethany Sewing Ministry



The ladies of Bethany will be meeting February 5, 19 and 26 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.



Women's Evening Bible Study



WEBS is the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, this month will be February 24th, location will be announced, eventually will be in new building. We will be using the book "Get Out of Your Head" by

Jennie Allen. It can be purchased on Amazon for \$12, the study guide will be used by the leader but if you want to purchase that as well for your own use you can, that is about \$16 on Amazon.



WFM Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation will meet, Thursday, February 12th, 11am at the church. All Ladies are Welcome, bring a lunch, dessert is provided.

Deacons & Trustees Meeting

Deacons & Trustees will meet here at church, Thursday, February 12th, 6pm.

Old Photos

We are requesting any old photos from church events or church building photos of past years to add to the collection for the "historical photos" page we are creating on the church website. Talk to Kelly Grothe or email them to bethanyaflc@gmail.com attention Kelly Grothe. If you have photos, we can scan them and return them to you when done.

Art/Craft Meetup

Bring your arts & craft projects all skills welcome. The second Saturday of each month, this month February 14th, from 2-5pm, at Bethany Free Lutheran Church. Join us to fellowship while you craft.

Youth Group

Youth Group for grades 7th-12th meet the last Sunday of every month here at Bethany after church from 12:30-2pm. Lunch is provided.

Easter Season

Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday is February 18th, we will be starting our Wednesday evening Soup & Services for Lent. Dinner at 6pm and service to follow at 7pm. Dates will be February 25th, March 4, 11, 18 and 25

A signup sheet will be on the bulletin board to provide the Wednesday evening soup and bread.



Palm Sunday-March 29th,

Maundy Thursday-April 2nd, Communion service 7pm

Good Friday-April 3rd, service 7pm

Easter Sunday- April 5th

Is it really that bad?

I think most Christians either consciously or unconsciously have a ranking of sins that go from absolutely horrible as the worst to little tiny sins that really aren't all that bad as the least. Most probably don't even realize that they do that. For instance, committing murder obviously seems worse than telling your mom her cooking was delicious, when in reality you could barely get it down. I think a case could be made that in fact murder is a worse sin than lying. In fact if you lie under oath in a court of law and get caught you will be punished, much less than if you commit murder and get caught. As a result of this understanding of the severity of sins, often we allow ourselves to "indulge" in certain sins and think very little of it. Sure deep down we might know those "little" sins are bad, but hey at least you didn't murder someone.

When I was only about 5 years out of seminary I started pastoring a small church in Maryland. This church was a home mission church, which means that it was a church plant in America. Because this was a home mission church plant Pastor Paul Nash, the home mission's director, acted as a sort of supervisor over me. He tried to give me additional advice for pastoring this little church. One of the things that stuck with me was how he insisted that I realize that division, and descension in the congregation were two of the enemy's main tools for destroying churches. He repeatedly warned me to guard against division within the church body, as well as bickering over things. It sounded strange at first.

It seemed strange that he put such a big emphasis on division and bickering. I mean if we think about it, are those sins really that bad? And if you think about it, we in America seem to embrace division and bickering. We divide ourselves into different fan bases for sports teams, and often love to bicker over who's team is best. We are super divided over politics, and the two sides can't seem to ever agree on almost anything. We even divide ourselves from others based on the nationality. I quickly learned that even though Scandinavian countries are very close together in many ways, Danish, Swedish, Finnish, and Norwegians are not all the same! So is a little division and bickering all that bad in a church?

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Galatia about how people who live according to the Spirit of God act, and how people who live according to their sinful flesh act. In chapter five, beginning with verse 19 we have a list of actions that are found in the person who is acting out of their sinful flesh instead of the Spirit. Read these verses and notice what he specifically mentions as fleshly actions:

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

It seems that dissensions and divisions really are bad. They are lumped together with sexual immorality, sorcery, and orgies. For a church to flourish, it cannot be divided in fractions, nor can they bicker and pick at people. This reminds us of the great importance forgiveness, longsuffering, and love have in a healthy congregation.

While Pastor Paul Nash is no longer living in this world, his words still ring true, and echo another Pastor Paul from much longer ago. May we all guard against divisions and bickering in the church, as we seek to live our lives modeling sacrificial love, patience, peace, and love to one another.

Pastor Rich Carr