



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

Check Us Out

YouTube: @bethanyfreelutheranastoria3012

Instagram: www.instagram.com/bethanylutheranafc/

Bethany Website: www.bethanyfree.com

Subsplash: Bethany church Astoria, on your mobile device app.

Facebook: Bethany Free Lutheran

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30am-10:30am

Kindergarten- Adults

Learning God's Word

+Adult Sunday School is currently studying the life and works of King David.



Men's Prayer Breakfast

April 4th, 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, April 2, 16, 23, and 30 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, April 9th, 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, April 7th, 6pm.

Men's Movie Night

April 1st, 6pm, at the Elks Lodge is Men's Movie Night, watching Red 2. They will be having Chili and Cornbread.

Art/Craft Meetup

Bring your arts & craft projects all skills welcome. April 11th, from 2-5pm, at Bethany Free Lutheran Church. Join us to fellowship while you craft.

Easter Season

Maundy Thursday is a communion service focused on the last supper-April 2nd, 7pm

Good Friday will focus on the final sacrifice for sins through Jesus' death-April 3rd, 7pm

Easter Sunday breakfast served during Sunday School(9:30am) Christ is Risen! The sting of death has been removed, Easter Worship Service at 11am- April 5th



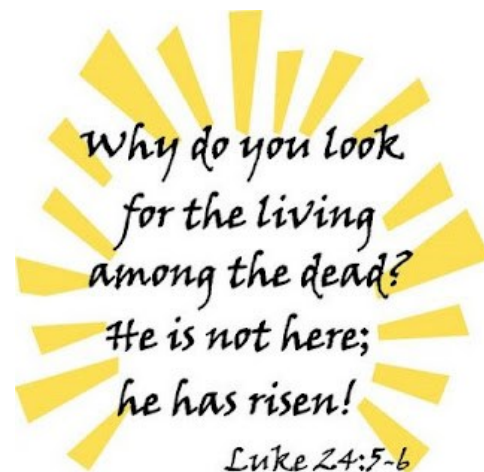
Alaska Tote

We will be filling a tote to go to The Net, again this year in May. The Net is the internet coffee house in Naknek, AK. It is a place where coffee is free and people from all over the world hear about the free gift of salvation.

More information about The Net can be found on the AFLC Home Missions site.

<https://aflchomemissions.org/alaska/the-net-cafe/>

A registry on Amazon for ideas on the things they need can be found there. Examples –cookies mixes, cake mixes, cupcake papers, premade frosting, canisters of hot chocolate & coffee, paper cups, paper supplies, cleaning supplies, powdered creamer, Bibles, cooking oil, white garbage sacks, more things listed on the Amazon wish list. Warm coats are also a welcome addition.



VBS

When: June 24,25&26

Time: 1-4 PM

Ages: Kindergarten-5th grade

Community Event: June 26 4-6 P

Any volunteer help is welcome

April Fool?

This year on April 1st my daughter Lydia is gone and in London. While I miss her, I won't miss the pranks or April fool's jokes she loves to play on everyone in the house. Oftentimes her April fool jokes are harmless, but they can get rather annoying. One year she decided to switch all the breakfast cereal around. She took the bags out of all the boxes and switched them. There is no doubt many who are reading this have a household member like Lydia, or are perhaps a prankster themselves.

While harmless jokes can be fun, the reality is that no one likes to be made out as a fool. April fool jokes have a way of making a person feel foolish. But what about those people who live in a constant state of foolishness? These people don't just fall victim to a joke, but live as fools. But what is a fool? When I think of a fool, it is a person who is ignorant of reality, someone who sees a truth but doesn't recognize it. Webster's 1828 dictionary defines a fool in a number of different ways. "One who is destitute of reason, or the common powers of understanding," is the first definition. The second definition explains a fool as, "a person who acts absurdly; one who does not exercise his reason; one who pursues a course contrary to the dictates of wisdom." Simply put a fool doesn't use his or her God given mental facilities as they ought to. A fool would look at a sheet of white paper, and say that it was black. A fool would look at a round ball, and argue that it is really a square.

I believe our current culture lifts up fools, and oftentimes puts them in positions of power and authority to teach others how to be fools. Not too long ago when I was looking through some internet posts, I found a woman arguing with a man on a college campus that there are literally hundreds of different genders. She claimed that a person couldn't even provide a number for all the different genders. The man responded by saying that claiming a person's gender is determined by how they self-identify is foolish and wrong. The woman, surrounded by her peers on a campus where she is probably paying tens of thousands of dollars per year to be educated, was totally convinced her position was accurate, and that this man was ignorant and foolish. And sadly many of her peers who were also paying huge sums of money to be educated seemed to agree with her.

While the depth of foolishness is breathtaking in our culture, this problem of "learned scholars" being fools is not new. Esteemed naturalist Charles Darwin published a book called *The Origin of Species* that marks a turning point in academia's embracing of foolishness. Observations of nature used to be a way that humanity saw the holy fingerprints of God. The vast complexity of creation screams there is a God, yet Darwin's theory opened the door for God denying scientists to prop up their atheistic worldviews. John

Dewey, humanist and atheist, as well as the creator of the once important "Dewey Decimal System" used in libraries everywhere, is considered by many as a pillar to the American education system. Dewey took Darwin's theory of a godless evolution system, and applied its principles toward education. Dewey espoused a progressive socialist model of education that taught truth and knowledge come from observation and experience rather than a set standard such as found in the Bible.

Now in part thanks to Dewey, we have young adults attending colleges being told that gender is fluid, that God is a myth, and that truth is relative to how you feel. Bible believing Christians are looked at by many with scorn and oftentimes anger. We are mocked for believing in absolute truth, and looked down upon as not being enlightened. We are labeled as weak minded, and basically called fools. Not surprisingly, the Bible explains how long before Dewey, this trend of denying truth, and mocking Christians is not new. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth this message:

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? (1 Cor. 1:18-20, ESV)

The Bible explains how there will be people claiming to be wise, but in their practice, they will be complete and utter fools. I think this truth has become more and more clear as time progresses.

As we will soon be entering into Holy Week we will worship God who was killed on the cross, buried in a sealed tomb, and then three days later rose from the grave. This truth is beyond the ability of science to explain, replicate, or even understand. As a result, many "wise scholars" of our day will call us fools for believing this event happened, even though there is plenty of historical documented evidence supporting our belief. So I want to encourage all of us to accept the culture's label of Bible believing Christians as fools, and to wear it proudly. For as verse 25 of 1st Corinthians chapter one says, "For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (ESV)

Pastor Rich Carr